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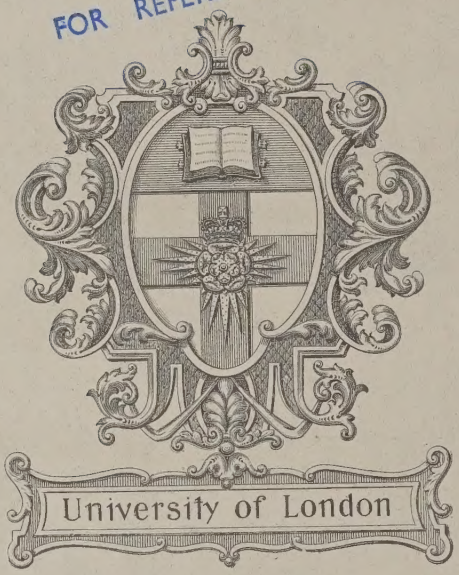

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REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES:

SEVENTEEN VOLUMES.

—(12.—Part III.)—

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

Session

15 *November* 1837——16 *August* 1838.

VOL. XVIII.—Part III.

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FROM

COMMITTEES:

SEVENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS

1937–1938

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1837-8.

SEVENTEEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

TWELFTH VOLUME, PART III.

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THIRTY-FIFTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
24 *May* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

24 *May* 1838.

WITNESS.

Mr. *Thomas William Overman.*

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 24° *die Maii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Langdale.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Scrope.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Thomas William Overman*, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *T.W. Overman.*

24 May 1838.

11472. Mr. *Freshfield.*] UPON your last examination, in number 11418 and the preceding, you stated that in the parish of Silsoe it was not the practice to give relief to able-bodied labourers who were in employ, even before the Poor Law Amendment Act passed?—Yes, I did.

11473. And yet, after the passing of the Poor Law, there appeared to be a considerable reduction in the rate; you were asked whether you could account for that reduction, and you stated you were unable to account for it?—I did.

11474. Are you now able to state to the Committee what was the reason that that reduction took place in the amount of rate, though the system continued the same?—I am.

11475. Will you state it?—I find, previous to the passing of the Poor Law, a considerable number of illegal payments in the book.

11476. Were those payments discontinued afterwards?—Yes, they were; I find one John Whitely, who was employed by the parish as a mole catcher, and received 9*s.* a week, and was paid out of the poor-rates; I find others for clothes given; for instance, here is one "Henry Tomkins, a frock, 4*s.* 6*d.*; William Tomkins, a frock, 2*s.* 3*d.*; repairing a coat for ditto, 2*s.* 6*d.*; William Tomkins, for a cap, 7*d*; Tomkins's wife, a pair of shoes, 6*s.* 9*d.*; Tomkins's daughter, Ann, 6*s.*; ditto, Hannah, 5*s.* 3*d.*; ditto for mending shoes, 2*s.* 8*d.*" And I find accounts for sparrows paid; so many dozen sparrows paid; and various other sums.

11476.* So that the result is, that, irrespective of the payment of money in aid of wages which existed before the Poor Law Amendment Act passed, the discontinuance not only of that but of other illegal payments has produced an improvement in the rates between the two periods?—It has; that is how I account for it.

11477. Mr. *Baines.*] And was the discontinuance of those illegal payments the effect of more vigilance on the part of the union after its establishment?—Wholly so.

11478. Mr. *Freshfield.*] And of the knowledge of the law on the subject?—Yes; I find those payments in 1834.

11479. Mr. *Hodges.*] In your opinion, are not the union houses larger than necessary, and in many instances more numerous than are necessary?—It is my decided opinion that they are larger than is necessary; I was first of opinion that they should be large houses, and I moved an amendment that ours should be a large house instead of a small one. The question was to build a house in the Ampthill Union for 200; from knowing the neighbourhood, I was then satisfied that a house for 200 would not hold all our paupers, and I moved that the house should be built for 400, which was carried, nine to one; but since then, from conviction, I find that a house for 200 would have done, and would have held all the paupers.

11480. Then your opinion, formed originally upon that point, and subsequently upon experience, satisfies you that a smaller house would have been sufficient, and the same reason led you to the opinion that there need not be an expense incurred in building a house of the dimensions of which we have seen?—Certainly not; I should say, that Mr. Adey wished the board not to build a

Mr. *T. W. Overman.*

24 May 1838.

large house, but so many of the guardians were of opinion that we should want a large house, that against the opinion of the Assistant-commissioner, we built a large house.

11481. Mr. *Baines.*] Your opinion originally was not what it now is?—My opinion originally was that we should want a large house, and I moved that we should have a large house instead of a small one.

11482. Mr. *Hodges.*] What led you to that opinion originally?—From going over in my mind the number of parishes; and, knowing that in the parish of Marston-Moretaine there were 60 men kept nearly all the year round by the parish and their families, about 40 in the parish of Lidlington, and as many in the parish of Cranfield, I calculated that those would amount to more than 200, that we should have out of those parishes.

11483. Then, in point of fact, the establishment of the board of guardians, and the altered system upon which relief is administered, has of itself effected a reformation in your union?—It has effected a great deal.

11484. You have not felt it necessary to rely upon the severity of the union workhouses in aid of that alteration effected by the board of guardians?—I do not think we could have carried the law so well into effect if we had not had the workhouse, because that has been the test; men have come to the board and said, they wanted relief, and we have offered them the workhouse; had they been destitute they would have come in; but I have known instances where men have asked for relief, and been offered the workhouse, and immediately have got work.

11485. Can you state what proportion the number of persons who applied for relief bore to these previously out of work, and who were supported by the rates?—No, I cannot; it could be ascertained by going over the books.

11486. Is it your impression that it was a small proportion or a large proportion?—Not a small proportion; we have had a considerable number apply to the board.

11487. Do not you think that if there had been one workhouse built for two or three or four, or any number of unions established at that time, the effect would have been just the same as by establishing a house in every union?—It is my opinion now that we do not want so many houses; I would have as many boards of guardians, but I would have one house to two or three boards of guardians, that would be a saving, and the thing would be as effectually worked, I think, as it is now.

11488. In point of fact, according to your view of the case, the use to which a union-house would be applied, as far as regards the able-bodied, would be very little other than what existed in the old law respecting houses of correction in a county to which persons might be sent who refused to work?—No, I do not say that; I do not look at the workhouse as a prison to send the men to; I do not look at them as houses of correction, I only look at them as real tests of destitution.

11489. Have any able-bodied labourers been sent to your union-house?—We have had some come into the house.

11490. But not many?—Not a great number; we have had some.

11491. When they came in, were they really destitute?—I think not many of them; I am satisfied that they were not.

11492. Then, if they were not destitute, was not that fact ascertainable without sending them into the house?—Then would come the question, what was to become of them? I could give the instance of Joseph Chamberlain, a young man about 31 years of age, equally as strong and able to work as myself, who has been seven or eight times into the house.

11493. Can that man get employment?—That man came from the railroad, where he had been at work 21 weeks, earning 18*s.* a week, to our workhouse, and demanded admittance, and called for the master, and said that he was in a state of starvation, and requested a provisional order to go into the house, which was given him, and the master took him into the house immediately.

11494. How was he managed there?—At that time we had no work in the house; we had no mode then of employing them.

11495. Was any body willing to employ him in the parish at that time?—I have no doubt that if he had been inclined to work he might have got work, so strong and able-bodied as he was, or he might have been kept at work on the railroad.

11496. Might not an individual of that sort have been brought before a magistrate, as refusing to maintain himself?—I agree with you; he ought to be.

11497. And the house of correction would have been a proper place for such a person?—Yes.

11498. It did not require the erection of the union-houses to bring to a right line of conduct an idle person of that description?—Not exactly in his case, because the only place he ought to have gone to would be the house of correction.

11499. Mr. *Freshfield.*] The case you put is an exception?—Quite an exception.

11500. Are you aware that it is one of the objections raised to the workhouse that it takes the person who is carried into the workhouse a greater distance from his friends?—It is.

11501. If you had but one house for several unions, that objection would be increased?—It would.

11502. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do not you think, in such a case as you have just alluded to, there is some difficulty in bringing the proof before the magistrates that a man is able to maintain himself, such proof as would justify them in convicting him as an idle and disorderly person?—There is a great difficulty in getting that information; in fact, we never got that information till months afterwards.

11503. Mr. *Hodges.*] But you state that there are persons who were willing to take him, and that he could have got employment?—There was plenty of work.

11504. Would not that be a proof?—We could not have got proof; but I have no doubt that he could have got work.

11505. But, surely with an able-bodied man of this description, it was not necessary to go to the expense of building a union-house, merely to bring that man to the test of his ability?—No; but we had not a knowledge that the new law would effect what it has effected when we built the house; there is no doubt that it has acted very beneficially upon the men; that it has induced many to look for work who would not otherwise have looked for it, because they know that is the only way of getting relief; and there are, unfortunately, some able-bodied lazy men in every parish.

11506. But a smaller house, you are of opinion, would answer the purpose?—That is my opinion.

11507. Mr. *Baines.*] But you did not erect that large house to bring that man only to a sense of his duty?—Certainly not.

11508. You erected it to bring other men who were acting in the same way, as well as that man, to a sense of their duty?—Yes.

11509. Mr. *Scrope.*] And as far as that man is concerned, that workhouse has not acted as a place for destitution?—It shows that it is a place of comfort, or a man would not go nine times into it in a year and a half.

11510. You think the utility of the workhouse applies to those intermediate cases in which a magistrate would not convict, but in which a claim against the parish is put in on the part of the pauper, though in the opinion of the guardians unadvisedly and unnecessary?—I do.

11511. *Chairman.*] Do you think, without some general test of what you call destitution and the want of the necessaries of life, without some means of ascertaining the condition of the labourer, better than by individual inquiry, that it would be possible to separate the industrious from the idle man?—It would not.

11512. Do you think, speaking from your experience of the effects of the workhouse in the Ampthill Union, that it has had the effect of enabling you to distinguish those who are idle from those who are disposed to be industrious?—Decidedly.

11513. Do you think that any individual inquiry, however pursued, by any set of parish officers, would enable you to make that distinction?—Certainly not.

11514. Do not you think it absolutely necessary that some general test of this sort should be had recourse to?—I do.

11515. Do you think it would be possible, in agricultural districts, to adopt an out-door labour test, or any other test, which would have that effect?—I do not.

11516. In an agricultural district, where the applicants are scattered from

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each other, living separately in detached parts of the parishes, do you think that any proposal for employing them altogether, upon the part of the parish, would be practicable, from the want of superintendence for their work?—It cannot be done.

11517. You approve, therefore, of the application of the workhouse test in the manner in which you use it at Ampthill?—I do.

11518. You believe it answers the purpose of enabling you to distinguish between real destitution and that which is not real?—Yes.

11519. And you know of no other test?—No.

11520. Mr. *Hodges.*] Are you not of opinion, since the workhouse, as the test of destitution, has been adopted with regard to persons applying for relief, that when they are refused relief there exists a moral obligation on the part of the persons of property in the parish where they live to offer them employment at adequate wages?—I think the natural result of this law will be that there will be very few people out of work. I am one of those who think that we do not know yet to what extent the improvements in agriculture can be carried; they will be carried much farther yet, and there will be work for a greater number of people than we have now in our employment.

11521. But during the last winter and the winter preceding, were there not in many of the parishes where workhouses existed, a vast number of persons who were out of work?—I have no knowledge of a great number of people being out of work in the last winter, from the severity of the weather.

11522. If there are a number of persons out of work during the severity of the weather, ought they to be exposed to suffering, when the only alternative offered to them is, to quit their cottages and enter into the workhouse?—I think it is a very good alternative to have that; they have a place of comfort to go to if they are in distress.

11523. Would you consider that a place of comfort to a man who would be forced with his family to abandon his house and to seek a temporary asylum in one of those workhouses?—I heard a man who came out, similarly situated, in the parish of Flitwick,—he had actually shut up his house; I heard him say, "I had no idea that this was such a place of comfort, and if I am out of work next winter, here I will come, and here every man ought to come who is out of work."

11524. Was the house his own?—He hired it, and I saw it shut up when I passed it.

11525. Do you know whether the landlord consented to forego the rent?—The man never asked him; he kept his furniture in and kept the occupation, and when he left the workhouse he went back to this cottage.

11526. Was that a man able and willing to work?—Yes; he had been at work and he had been earning a considerable deal of money before he came to the board; it was the opinion of the board that the only relief given him should be the workhouse, which he accepted.

11527. As the man was able and willing to work, and was out of work because nobody would employ him, do you consider that fair treatment to an English labourer?—I see nothing derogatory in it, if a man will come and apply for relief.

11528. As a parish officer, do you imagine that that, in an economical point of view, is the best course to take?—I do not look at it in an economical point of view, but it will be eventually an economical measure, because it will act upon farmers; in some cases the farmers may have turned men off in bad weather, but there will be that feeling between the farmers and men, that if there comes a little rough weather, the master will not turn the man away, but will look for work for him to do.

11529. In the event of the market for corn being low, and the agricultural interests in a state of depression, as we have known from experience has been frequently the case in the last 20 years, would the farmers be in a condition to act up to what they might wish to do, in still keeping all their men employed?—I do not look for the cases of depression that we have had; I think in a short time we shall attain the desirable object of cheap corn grown by the English farmer at a profit.

11530. Mr. *Scrope.*] But whatever the condition of the farmers at the time, would it not be, under all circumstances, more economical for the farmers themselves to afford employment at those times to the labourers who may be in want of

of it, and to get what labour they can get in return, than to maintain them in idleness doing nothing on their account in the workhouse?—Yes.

11531. And therefore, whatever the condition of the farmers, there is still a strong tendency in the workhouse system, as at present exercised, to secure employment to the labourers in the winter, or in times when they would, under the former system, have been thrown out of employment?—That will be the result, I have no doubt.

11532. Have you known any instances in which farmers have taken into employment men whom, in former times, they would have discharged, under the pressure of that necessity of maintaining them in the workhouse?—I have not heard of any instances of men being turned out of employment this year.

11533. And formerly they used to be?—Yes; I have heard of no instance in which people have lost their work from the severity of the winter.

11534. And do you attribute that difference to the pressure of the workhouse system upon the farmers, requiring them to maintain the labourers in some way or other, and their preference of maintaining them upon wages to maintaining them in the workhouse?—Yes; the interests of the masters and men are better understood; the master has some thought for the man as well as for himself; and I attribute that to the new law.

11535. Mr. *Baines.*] You say that the interests of the masters and the men are better understood; you mean to say that the interest of the labourer and the interest of his master are more identical under the new law than they were under the old?—I do.

11536. And therefore it is not a matter of generosity on the part of the master, but a matter of policy, that he should give employment to his labourers, rather than suffer them to come into the workhouse, to be dependent upon the rate?—It will be partly policy and partly from good feeling between the master and the men.

11537. You have been asked whether the workhouse system does not operate advantageously in agricultural districts, and you have answered that it does; for any thing that you know to the contrary, would it not be likely to operate advantageously in the manufacturing districts?—That must be a matter merely of opinion on my part, never having been in a manufacturing district.

11538. Have you never been in a situation to ascertain that?—No.

11539. *Chairman.*] Have you ever contemplated any state of things in which it would be practicable for the farmers to undertake to employ at adequate wages every labourer who should apply?—I do think that desirable object will very soon be accomplished; there is now a feeling in the men of a wish to work, and the farmers wish to employ them, and again, there is so much capital now liberated. I will take my own district; there is increased employment, from increased capital, and the result of that must be good; for I could turn to the parish of Westoning, that having been quoted very much, to show that good will arise from that; I find, in the year 1834, 445*l.* 6*s.* was paid for 1,061 weeks' work; in 1837, the sum of 823*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* for 1821 weeks; showing an increase of work in that year (this is taken from a statement which has been put in) of 760 weeks, and the amount of wages of those 760 weeks was 378*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*: deducting from those 760 weeks 213 weeks during which the men were employed upon the railroad, earning in that time 118*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, leaving 547 weeks that the men got being employed by farmers in the parish, for which 260*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* was paid; therefore this alteration of the law cannot have caused a reduction in the prices of wages, but it has enabled the Westoning farmers to give more wages than the actual average of the country; for I find that during those 547 weeks the average wages are 9*s.* 5¾*d.* per week; therefore the farmers of Westoning were in a situation to give actually more during the 547 weeks than the general wages of the country, which is 9*s.*; and I infer from that, the farmers were in a situation to pay that, or they would not have paid 5¾*d.* a week more than they need have paid them.

11540. Mr. *Scrope.*] Is that statement drawn up from an account given by all the farmers in the parish of Westoning?—This is taken from the table put in, of 48 labourers in the parish of Westoning.

11541. It relates only to the employment of 48 men, and not of all the labourers in the parish?—Exactly.

11542. You have stated, that 260*l.* additional was paid in wages amongst those men by the farmers; will you compare that with the saving in poor-rates

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to the same farmers?—The poor-rate in 1834 was 404*l.*, and in 1837 it was 34*l.*, therefore there was 370*l.* paid in 1834 for relief, for which no work was done.

11543. And in 1837, 260*l.* was given by the same farmers amongst the same men?—Yes.

11544. But the 370*l.* was probably not all paid to those able-bodied labourers but to the aged and infirm?—No; this 370*l.* was paid to the 48 labourers.

11545. Therefore the difference, of 110*l.*, the farmers pocketed, and did not employ any labourer?—I should explain: deducting 34*l.* from 404*l.* will leave 370*l.* paid to those 48 labourers; but in 1837, those 48 labourers earned 378*l.*; but 118*l.* of that was earned out of the parish, and, therefore, I deducted that.

11546. Then, though those 48 labourers were not wholly employed by the parish in the last year, they still obtained, from industrious employment, full as large a sum as they obtained from the parish in 1834 for doing nothing?—Eight pounds more.

11547. Therefore, to the whole extent of that sum, the country at large must have been benefited, supposing them to be employed profitably in the last year?—No doubt of it.

11548. And the labourers have not suffered, but have been benefited to the extent of 8*l.*?—Yes; besides the benefit which their families would derive from seeing their fathers profitably employed.

11549. Besides the moral improvement resulting from their being employed usefully by the farmers, instead of being shut up in gravel-pits?—Yes.

11550. Mr. *Hodges.*] Were any employed upon the railroad?—Yes, some were employed in 1837; they were employed 213 weeks, earning 118*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

11551. Are you of opinion, that when the railroad work has ceased, the improved system of farming in that parish will absorb all that labour?—Yes, and more; I saw on my road here the other day, what I never saw in Westoning before, 25 men hoeing beans in a field in Westoning; I have no doubt they were doing it by the acre, for they were all stript to their shirt sleeves.

11552. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you attribute that to the change in the Poor Law?—I do; it is notorious that formerly those Westoning men would not work.

11553. With respect to the expression you used, of "capital liberated," you meant to say, that the capital that was formerly disadvantageously or unprofitably applied in relieving those labourers is now applied in giving them employment?—I do.

11554. Is that, according to your impression, one of the effects of the new law?—I think so; thereby society at large must eventually be benefited, because if this 400*l.* is now employed productively, there must be results beneficial from that, for the produce of the land will be greater, and, therefore, I arrive at the conclusion that we shall eventually supply this country with cheap corn grown with profit to the farmer.

11555. *Chairman.*] Have you any experience of relief given in the shape of a labour rate?—It was tried in the parish in which I reside, Maulden.

11556. What was the effect of it?—It was tried in 1833 and 1834. Some men had been upon the parish for a considerable time, earning nothing, and the overseer called a meeting to consult upon the best way of employing them, and the result of that was, that we determined to take them at so much for every 20*l.* at which we were assessed; if a farmer was assessed at 20*l.* to the rate he should take a man; and then came the difficulty, who was to have the first pick, and who was to have the last man, for there were some very queer ones among them, and I agreed to take the very last, and I got some that could work, but did not like it; two men, named John Richardson and Sam Smith, were allotted to me. After a very short time, my foreman complained to me that those men did not keep their hours; they came very late in the morning; he had told them of it, and their reply was, "Let your master turn us off;" when he mentioned that to me, the next morning I was up early; the men were not come; all the other men were out at work, except those; when they did come, I remarked, "You are very late, my lads, this morning; John has complained of you; you do not seem to be mended." Sam Smith remarked, "No; if you do not like it, you must turn us away; we know that the overseer must pay us, for you are under engagement if you turn us away to pay either him or us." The consequence was, I did turn the men away. Those two men, I should now say, are very good labourers; they are working very hard, and particularly this Sam Smith; only this last spring, one morning, I went out, it

was

was a little after five, during the lambing season, and I saw a man taking up roots, stript to his shirt sleeves; I asked my shepherd who it was; he said, "Sir, it's a man that you never saw work before, and I never saw work before; that is Sam Smith, sir, he hates work, but I think Sam will buckle to, and will become a good labourer."

11557. Was that the same Sam Smith who had formerly said "If you do not like it, you must turn us away, we know that the overseer must pay us?"—Yes, the same man.

11558. Does he say so now?—No; he is at work now very frequently.

11559. In your opinion, is that an exact illustration of the effects of the former and the present law?—It is.

11560. Making the labourer more attentive to his work, giving him a certainty of employment if he does his work faithfully, and having the effect of inducing the master to treat him kindly?—It has that effect; and I would engage to say that, looking through the parish books, I should find Sam Smith's name in the parish books every winter.

11561. Is he now on the parish books?—No.

11562. Has he applied for relief?—He has not been before the board.

11563. Is he in constant work?—I do not know that he is in constant work, but he is in work in different places.

11564. Do you know his family?—Yes.

11565. Does he provide for them the decent comforts of life?—They look well.

11566. Do they look as if they wanted food or other necessaries?—They dress smart, the daughters in particular.

11567. There is nothing which indicates any want of the common comforts of life?—There is no indication of distress.

11568. Mr. *Baines.*] How were they before, when Sam was idle, and told you that if you did not like it you might turn him off?—Very short; Sam used to have a pipe in his mouth, and I do not see him with a pipe now.

11569. The effect has been to increase his industry and his comfort, and to give the farmer a good labourer?—Yes.

11570. Mr. *Hodges.*] When you said you would take what the others refused, what number had you?—Five or six; I have 630 acres of land, 130 of which are grass; and I have been employing for the last 12 months 26 upon the 500 acres of land, besides boys.

11571. *Chairman.*] Were you in the habit of employing as many before?—No.

11572. What number used you to employ?—I did not employ so many till this last year; owing to the improvement in the machinery I cut turnips for 800 sheep, which I never cut before. I find the men willing to work; and it was the result of my experiments, that the sheep would improve if they were well attended to, but it would require a very great deal of attention on the part of the men for the sheep to improve. This last year a new machine was invented for cutting turnips more quickly, and that induced me, instead of cutting for 100, which I used to cut for, to cut for 800.

11573. That is owing to an improvement in machinery; but, independently of the improvement in machinery, have there been any inducements operating upon your mind to employ a greater number of men?—Yes.

11574. What are those inducements?—This introduction of machinery requires the application of labour. Three of the men who are now looking after my sheep used to be formerly on the parish, and I have had no cause to complain of them; they have been employed with profit to themselves and to me.

11575. Mr. *Scrope.*] You would not have employed them under the former system?—The difficulty would have been in looking after them.

11576. Because the men were in fact independent of you?—Yes.

11577. Now, feeling that they are dependent upon the master, they endeavour to satisfy you?—That is the case.

11578. And you are thereby enabled to employ profitably machinery which otherwise you would not have been able to do?—I am.

11579. Mr. *Hodges.*] In addition to your objection to employ those particular men before, from their unwillingness to work, had you any reason to doubt their honesty?—I may say that no person has been less robbed than myself; I have had robberies, and I have prosecuted the parties; I once lost 50 tods of

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wool, and another time three horses, and I followed the men, and I took them, thereby showing the people that I was determined not to be robbed with impunity: few persons are robbed less than I am.

11580. With no reference to robberies upon yourself, but upon other people, were the men who applied to the parish at that time considered to be men whose moral character was not the best?—Many of them.

11581. Have you had occasion to discover, that since they have been employed their characters have become perhaps as good as that of their neighbours?—There is not much difference now between them and the others; and I would say, that I have three men who were formerly continually upon the parish, and whose characters were not good, and they are now good labourers.

11582. That is with reference not merely to industry, but to moral character?—Yes; their moral character is much improved; I could speak to these three more particularly.

11583. *Chairman.*] Would you trust those men now in employments in which you would not formerly?—I would; one is in my barn continually, where he may rob me to a great extent of grain, but he never does.

11584. Mr. *Baines.*] With respect to the introduction of machinery into agriculture, you say that by introducing that machinery, though it abridges the labour, you are enabled to employ more workmen?—Yes.

11585. So that the introduction of machinery has not diminished your means of employing work-people, but has increased them?—Yes; I do this partly from conviction; I found if sheep were well attended to by cutting the turnips, they would cost me just 1*d.* per head, and that sheep well attended to with cut turnips would do equally as well as sheep that have corn and cost 6*d.* per head; but if they were not well attended to, of course it would be on the contrary, and that system will yearly increase; next year I shall cut for 1,000, and it will require carpenters to make a considerable quantity of troughs; that creates work; men are now willing to work, and I have capital to lay out, and as a man of business, it is my study to lay that money out to the greatest advantage, benefiting me and others equally.

11586. That is a much better way of employing capital, than if it had been employed in paying labourers, as it formerly was, for doing nothing?—Of course.

11587. Mr. *Scrope.*] That liberated capital does not merely consist of the sum you have saved in poor-rate, but that sum being profitably expended in the first year, is continually increasing upon you, is it not?—Of course, and I am satisfied that we shall in a few years supply England with cheap corn, and that grown at a profit to ourselves; that is my decided opinion, upon looking very closely into it.

11588. That great prospective improvement you attribute to the change of the system, which has rendered the labourer dependent upon his master for his maintenance, in substitution of a system which rendered him independent and careless of his conduct?—Yes; the man and the master are getting aware that the well-doing of the one is the welfare of the other.

11589. Mr. *Freshfield.*] When you speak of the inclination of the farmer to employ a labourer rather than let him go into the workhouse, because of the cost of the workhouse system, in a particular instance, you mean to represent that only as one inducement to him, not as the principal inducement?—Not as the principal inducement.

11590. Because his proportion of poor-rates that he thereby saves is very small, as compared with the amount of wages that he has to pay?—It is; I have advised one man in particular, in the parish of Cranfield, to come into the house; the labourer always is paid lower than in any other parish in our union; and I have advised two labouring men in that parish to come into the house; at the board I have said, "Come in; it will act upon the farmers," one had seven children and the other nine, "and they will soon raise your wages."

11591. *Chairman.*] What was the consequence?—Immediately they went out and obtained wages of 9*s.*, the farmer letting them an acre of land to cultivate.

11592. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Your increased inducement to employ the labourer, is the improved conduct of the labourer, and that you get a better return for your wages on that account?—Yes.

11593. Mr. *Baines.*]

11593. Mr. *Baines.*] Though there may be some cases of suffering in your parish, where a labourer with a large family does not get the same income as he would have got under the allowance system, is it your opinion, that, taking the labourers as a body, they are much benefited by the introduction of the new Poor Law?—They are; but I would say that the parish of Maulden has always resisted the allowance system; during the 24 years I have been there no man has ever had an allowance for his family, and when a man has complained to the magistrates, myself and Mr. Seabrook, who is the next largest farmer, had that understanding, that if a man with a large family wanted extra, we used to take that man and give him work by the great in our farms; there used to be work by the great; I said to the man, "You have a large family, and are in duty bound to maintain the family; if you cannot maintain your family by 10 hours' work, you must work 12, and by that means be able to maintain your family;" either I or Mr. Seabrook have offered work.

11594. Mr. *Hodges.*] The new law, then, has not made any alteration in that respect?—Not in that parish.

11595. What made the alteration between that and the other parishes?—The nerve; I got myself into dislike with many people because I resisted this, but I was pretty well aware what the law was, and I made my stand.

11596. *Chairman.*] You say this was the case in the parish of Maulden; you have also said that you had several labourers whom you could not trust before, in consequence of their dependence upon the allowance system?—Yes, they were men that had their pay for doing no work.

11597. Then, even in the parish of Maulden, supposing a man had been turned off by you, and had gone to the overseer and applied for parish relief when he was out of work, would he have had parish pay?—He would.

11598. Mr. *Scrope.*] Are you of opinion that it is desirable that the board of guardians should have the power of relaxing the rule of giving relief in the workhouse only to able-bodied labourers in employment, so far as taking one or two of the children into the workhouse, or in any other way assisting the labourer with a large family and small wages?—I would leave him to provide wholly for himself.

11599. You think that the least possible alteration of the law in that respect would be the introduction of the allowance system under another name?—Yes; and it would be abused directly.

11600. Mr. *Baines.*] Though you say you have not, in your own parish, had experience of the allowance system, wherever that system has prevailed, is it your opinion that that system was prejudicial, both to the labourer and to the employer?—To both; I will illustrate that. Supposing a man, having a family of six children, was put into a barn to thresh, and that man could have from his parish 3*s.*; another man put into the barn with him to thresh who had no family, could have no allowance from the parish; by what right do you pay one man 3*s.* more than another? for it is literally paying him for his work. The man who has no family must have an equal right to have as much money as the man who had a large family, each doing the same work.

11601. Mr. *Scrope.*] And would not the man who had no family be discontented at not receiving the same as the other?—He would.

11602. Supposing the man with a large family, instead of being paid 3*s.* more than the other, had three of his children taken into the workhouse, would not that produce exactly the same consequences; would it not be the same thing under another name?—No doubt it would be a worse system than the other; separating families I dislike altogether.

11603. It would be a worse system, inasmuch as it would tend to separate families, and would place the bad workman and the good workman on the same footing, and, to the same extent, make a difference in the total receipts of two equally good labourers, one having a family and the other not?—It would be a much worse system.

11604. Mr. *Baines.*] And would it not have the effect of producing an impression upon the minds of those two men, one of them receiving 6*s.* a week for his labour, and the other receiving 3*s.* for the same quantity of labour, that they were not paid for their labour, but for having large families?—That is what the men would consider.

11605. Mr. *Scrope.*] There would be this additional disadvantage, that it would tend to encourage improvident marriages?—It would decidedly have that effect.

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I would allude to a circumstance which has lately occurred in the parish of Maulden, where the allowance system never has been carried on; two men with large families have lately applied to me for assistance to put their boys out apprentice; there is a fund belonging to the parish of Maulden of a few pounds a year to put out boys, and I think in the 24 years I have put out 20 boys at 18*l.* a piece; one, of the name of Thomas Benham, who has a wife and five children, a labouring man, came to me and said he had a place for his boy as a wheelwright, a person would take him for 20*l.*; he would pay him 10*l.*, if I would give the other 10*l.* The other is the case of William Brown who has eight or nine children, I will say eight; he said he could get his boy a place as an apprentice for 10*l.*; if I would give 5*l.* he would give the other 5*l.*; those are circumstances which never happened before during the 24 years; they used to apply to us to clothe them, besides putting them out; these circumstances have happened since I attended this Committee.

11606. Mr. *Hodges.*] You have stated that by employment in farming and in machinery, and so on, the labouring population are all absorbed; are you seriously of opinion that the profitable employment of capital in agriculture will go on to such an extent as to absorb all the increasing population of this country?—I do think so for years to come; I think farming is only in its infancy, speaking from the result of some experiments.

11607. You employ, you say, between 20 and 30 men; do you give your men as much milk as they want, and a pint of strong beer a day?—I do not give them any milk.

11608. Or beer?—No; only in the harvest and hay-time.

11609. Do you give higher wagers than other farmers?—My men work a great deal by the piece.

11610. Are their earnings equal or greater or less than the farmers give who give them a pint of strong beer and as much milk as they want?—My labourers earn 9*s.* and 10*s.* and 11*s.* and 12*s.* and 13*s.*, and sometimes 18*s.* a week.

11611. Do they earn more than 9*s.* a week by the great?—Yes; this Sam Smith has sometimes not earned more; I have known him earn 9*s.*, when others have earned more.

11612. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is it within your experience, that there is now ample employment for capital in farming?—I do think so.

11613. Do you happen to know that, at the time the Poor Law passed, the only profitable farms were those in which a farmer with two or three of his sons was working?—Yes, with the exception of one class of farmers, those in extra-parochial parishes; they were farming profitably, and why? because they had independent labourers; if the men did not work, they were not obliged to keep them; I know of no extra-parochial farmer who has not been getting money for the last 20 years.

11614. *Chairman.*] What do you mean by extra-parochial farms?—Farms in parishes with no poor belonging to them; they might get their labourers where they pleased.

11615. Did not that apply also to the class of labourers who worked in parishes to which they did not belong?—It did.

11616. Was it not generally observed that those were the best labourers?—It was; three of my best labourers did not belong to Maulden.

11617. Do you attribute that to the circumstance of those men having no relief from the parish to fall back upon?—Yes.

11618. Mr. *Hodges.*] Were not the rents higher in those extra-parochial parishes?—Yes.

11619. Just as they would be in parishes which were tithe-free?—Yes.

11620. Do you consider that the new Poor Law will improve rents?—It will advance the value of all property, as a matter of course.

11621. If that be the case, will it still leave the means in the hands of the farmer to employ the excess of population?—I do not see why it should not; I do not think so ill of the gentlemen as to suppose that they will take the whole benefit to themselves immediately.

11622. *Chairman.*] Even if rents were advanced, would not the farmer derive great advantage from the improved character and industry of the labourer?—Yes.

11623. Mr. *Scrope.*] In fact, before the landlord gets an additional rent, the farmer must get an additional profit, and the labourers must get additional wages?—Of course.

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11624. They are the first parties to benefit by the change?—Yes.

11625. If there is room for this great improvement in Bedfordshire, there must be still greater room for it in other parts of England and Ireland, where farming is in a worse state, must there not?—There is room, for very great improvement, even in the best cultivated parts.

11626. You think that the same stimulus that is operating upon the farmers in Bedfordshire, must have been operating extensively wherever the new law has been introduced?—I have not the least doubt of it; I might illustrate that by saying that it is clear that I am right in the result of my arguments, for we have been able to supply ourselves with corn for years without foreign aid, and that with a decrease from Ireland lately.

11627. You attribute that, in some degree, to the change of the Poor Law, not solely to the character of our harvests?—Partly to one and partly the other, I will not give it all to the seasons.

11628. Mr. *Langdale.*] Are you not aware that in many parts of England wheat is grown where it was not formerly?—Yes, there is.

11629. In the wolds of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire wheat was not formerly grown?—Yes, but still on the wolds of Yorkshire there was barley grown; but we have not a short supply of barley; barley has decreased in value nearly 10*s.* per quarter, therefore there is the same quantity grown.

11630. *Chairman.*] Have you any reason to suppose that the poor have diminished means of supplying themselves with pigs, and the food with which they feed their pigs?—The result of my inquiries is directly the contrary; no man is more interested in the welfare of the poor than I am; the interest of the one is the interest of the other; I have ascertained, as nearly as I possibly could, from a man who kills an immense number of pigs for the lower order, whether he has killed more or less pigs in 1837; the answer was, "Considerably more;" and I did not rest my inquiries there; I went to the millers who supplied them with food; I asked them this question, "Have you or have you not sold more barley-meal within the last year?" The reply was, "We have." "Who are your customers?" "The poor people."

11631. Independently of that information which you received from those parties, have you had an opportunity of observing whether the poor people are more or less in the habit of keeping pigs?—I have.

11632. What is the result?—In going through 13 parishes for the purpose of re-assessing them, I had my eyes about me to observe whether I could see as many pigs as usual, and, to my great surprise and satisfaction, I found a considerable number of pigs.

11633. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do your own labourers keep pigs?—Yes.

11634. More than they used?—They do; and I could refer to one man who had two pigs at the very identical time that Mr. Turner made his table, and those were worth 9 *l.*; he has now one pig in his stye, which I will give him 5 *l.* for.

11635. How much of the 9 *l.* or of the 5 *l.* had been mortgaged to the miller?—Very little is mortgaged, I think, judging from the appearance of the man.

11636. *Chairman.*] What use do they make of the pig?—They eat part, and part is sold.

11637. Do many people keep them, not for the sake of eating them, or of selling them at a profit, but for the purpose of manure?—Partly for manure, and partly to sell to profit, and to keep their little money as a kind of bank.

11638. And partly to eat?—Yes.

11639. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Did you advance him the money to buy the pigs?—No.

11640. *Chairman.*] It has been said that the tradesmen and carriers of Ampthill complain of the diminution of custom; a grocer of the name of Claridge, and a carrier going from Ampthill to London, both stated that their custom had considerably diminished; have you any observation to make upon that?—There has been a great competition in the trade at Ampthill amongst the grocers; if Mr. Claridge has sold less goods to the amount of 40 *l.* a quarter; I have no doubt that others have sold more.

11641. Has that been the case recently?—Within the last two or three years; I am borne out by the fact that two carriers have started against the carrier who is alluded to, and they get a considerable deal of custom, for I see them well loaded as they pass my house.

11642. If that particular carrier had reason to complain of the diminution of

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custom, is it probable that a part of the custom which he has lost has gone to the other carriers?—I have no doubt of it.

11643. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You think it would be no improvement upon the present system, if a certain number of the children were allowed to be taken into the workhouse, where the labourer has a very large family?—I think it would not; in fact I would resign my seat at the board if such a law passed, knowing that it must eventually bring us back to the old system.

11644. You have described it as, in fact, paying one man more than another; is that your opinion?—It had that effect under the old law.

11645. That was the allowance system?—Under the old law there were many men with large families, and the farmer would give them 7*s.* or 9*s.*, when a single man would get rather less money.

11646. If the rule was to take into the workhouse all the children of a family beyond two, then, in the case of a labourer who had two children, and another labourer who had five, the one would have three children taken into the workhouse, and you would thereby rather reduce his burthen to the grade of the other man than do injustice to the other man?—I do not think that that would make any difference in the wages of those two.

11647. Mr. *Scrope.*] Supposing such a system was adopted, do you not think that the consequence would be, that the farmers would not give more wages than would support labourers with two children, and that the consequence would be to keep wages low, whereas, if the farmer requires the labour of all the labourers in the parish, they must give wages sufficient to maintain the largest family?—Yes, it would have that tendency to reduce wages.

11648. And to encourage improvident marriages, and also the effect of separating the children from the parents injuriously?—Yes, it would act very injuriously.

11649. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Improvident marriages are those in which a man is not able to support any children?—Those are improvident marriages.

11650. Mr. *Langdale.*] Probably there has not been time yet to ascertain whether there is any difference respecting the age at which labourers marry under the new law, as compared with the age at which they married under the old?—My opinion is that there are not so many marriages as there were.

11651. *Chairman.*] Will you take these papers into your hand, and read from them the statements of the number of marriages before the law and since the law in the Ampthill Union?—The first is from Houghton Conquest:

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

The following is the number of marriages solemnized by agricultural labourers in the parish of Houghton Conquest, in the county of Bedford, from the 1st January 1832 to 31st December 1837 both inclusive:

The year 1832	7	marriages.
„ 1833	7	„
„ 1834	1	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1834	15	„
The year 1835	5	marriages.
„ 1836	2	„
„ 1837	1	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1837	8	„

I hereby certify that the above is a correct statement, so far as relates to agricultural labourers only.

(signed) *Henry Spencer,*
Curate.

30 April 1838.

The next is from the parish of Milbrook.

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

The following is the number of marriages solemnized by agricultural labourers in the parish of Milbrook, in the county of Bedford, from the 1st January 1832 to 31st December 1837, both inclusive:

The year 1832	2	marriages.
„ 1833	3	„
„ 1834	3	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1834	8	

The

The year 1835	2	marriages.
„ 1836	1	„
„ 1837	4	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1837	7	„

I hereby certify that the above is a correct statement, so far as relates to agricultural labourers only.

(signed) *George Cardale,*
Rector of Milbrook.

30 April 1838.

The next is from the parish of Marston-Moretaine:

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

The following is the number of marriages solemnized by agricultural labourers in the parish of Marston-Moretaine, in the county of Bedford, from the 1st January 1832 to the 31st December 1837, both inclusive:

The year 1832	7	marriages.
„ 1833	6	„
„ 1834	6	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1834	19	„

The year 1835	6	marriages.
„ 1836	5	„
„ 1837	1	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1837	12	„

I hereby certify that the above is a correct statement, so far as relates to agricultural labourers only.

(signed) *W. G. Duncombe,*
Churchwarden.

30 April 1838.

The next is from the parish of Flitwick:

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

The following is the number of marriages solemnized by agricultural labourers in the parish of Flitwick, in the county of Bedford, from 1st January 1832 to 31st December 1837, both inclusive:

The year 1832	5	marriages.
„ 1833	3	„
„ 1834	2	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1834	10	„

The year 1835	3	marriages.
„ 1836	2	„
„ 1837	3	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1837	8	„

I hereby certify that the above is a correct statement, so far as relates to agricultural labourers only.

(signed) *George Cardale,*
Vicar of Flitwick.

30 April 1838.

The next is from the parish of Ampthill:

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

The following is the number of marriages solemnized by agricultural labourers in the parish of Ampthill, in the county of Bedford, from the 1st January 1832 to the 31st December 1837, both inclusive.

The year 1832	9	marriages.
„ 1833	9	„
„ 1834	4	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1834	22	„

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The year 1835	3	„
„ 1836	3	„
„ 1837	4	„
TOTAL of three years, ending 1837	10	„

I hereby certify that the above is a correct statement, so far as relates to agricultural labourers only.

(signed) *C. A. Powell,*
Curate of Ampthill.

30 April 1838.

11652. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Have you any statement to make, showing the indifference of the men to work under the old system?—In 1834, I have rather a remarkable case of a man who had been in the habit of working for me some years before; I ordered him to go into the barn to thresh, and he said, no, for he had made a vow never to thresh any more, and he would not go in to work; he would not break his vow for any one.

11653. You do not now meet with cases of that sort?—I do not; they are glad to go into the barn, or do any work.

11654. *Chairman.*] Are there any points upon which you would wish to give information to the Committee?—Mr. Langdale asked me, in my last day's examination, respecting the farmers taking servants; I wish to say that, besides the trouble they gave, one great objection was, the fear the farmers had of making settlements; I know of cases where men have lived 11 or 12 months with a farmer, and because it has been a good parish, they have sworn themselves to that parish, and that was a thing that deterred farmers.

11655. Mr. *Langdale.*] But that no longer operates?—No; and I hope to see the law of settlement done away with altogether; it would tend to lead men to migrate to other parishes in search of work.

11656. Mr. *Hodges.*] Upon what do you rely for preventing improvident marriages and an undue increase in the population of the labouring classes?—Many young men have bethought themselves, there will not be that inducement that there was before; if a man had so many children, he could have relief, and if he had a large family, it was a fortune to him; but they will now be more provident, just as they are in the station of life to which I belong; they will not marry, because they have that spirit of independence that they do not wish to impoverish but to maintain their families.

11657. Do you imagine that that check will be equal to the check which existed before, by the domiciling of the younger labourers in the houses of the farmers?—Really I cannot see that that would make any difference in keeping them from marrying.

11658. Are you not aware, that until within the last 40 years the population of England increased at a lower rate than perhaps any country in Europe?—No, I was not aware of that fact.

11659. Mr. *Langdale.*] Was it more difficult formerly for a young unmarried man to get employment in your parish than for a married man?—It was not, in that parish.

11660. In the county in which you are now living?—There was a difficulty.

11661. And therefore there was a direct inducement, on the part of the young man, to marry, in order that he might get employment?—Yes.

11662. *Chairman.*] Was there not this additional inducement, that the young man knew that in proportion as his family increased, his pay would be increased?—Yes.

11663. Did not that remove any apprehension as to the difficulty of supporting a family?—It did.

11664. Did it not relieve him from any necessity of using those precautions and provisions which a prudent man, not having any dependence but upon his own exertions, would find it necessary to make in order to support them?—It had that effect.

11665. Mr. *Hodges.*] Would any of those advantages under the new law afford any compensation for the loss of the domestic education and example and restraint afforded under the old system to which I have alluded?—I cannot speak of that practice; I was so young when my father kept servants, that I cannot speak to that.

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11666. Mr. *Langdale.*] In point of fact, you are not acquainted with the working of that system to which the honourable Member alludes?—I am not.

11667. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Have you any arrangement in the parish of Maulden, by which labourers are allowed to occupy small quantities of ground as garden ground?—We have; his Grace the Duke of Bedford, about nine or ten years since, let about 120 men have gardens of one rood each at that time; these were the rules and regulations under which they held them; his Grace, over his different estates in Bedfordshire, has 700 different allotments of one rood each, and I believe there had not been 10*s.* lost in the rents in the last nine or ten years.

11668. Will you state the rules and regulations under which labourers hold their garden land?—The "rules and regulations respecting the allotment of garden land for labourers in the parish of Maulden:

I. The rent is to be paid yearly, on the 11th October.
II. No occupier will be suffered to re-let his allotment.
III. No person shall be employed on the land who does not belong to the parish.
IV. No occupier will be allowed to plough his land, but be required to cultivate it solely by spade husbandry.
V. If any occupier is found neglectful in the cultivation of his land, he will not be permitted to hold it after the current year.
VI. No occupier who is at work for the parish, or for any employer, will be allowed to work upon his land after six o'clock in the morning, or before six in the evening, without permission from his master.
VII. No occupier will be suffered to trespass upon another's allotment.
VIII. All occupiers will be expected to attend regularly at Divine Service; to conduct themselves with sobriety at all times, and to bring up their families in a decent and orderly manner.
IX. Any occupier who may be convicted of poaching, thieving, or of any other offence against the laws of the country, will be deprived of his garden."

11669. Do you afford any inducement, by way of reward, to the occupiers of those gardens to cultivate them in the most improved way?—No, there is no such inducement.

11670. But in general are they neatly kept?—Very much so.

11671. And rendered productive?—Yes.

11672. And a fair quantity of manure applied?—Yes; I think from them the farmers will learn how to manure their land. It is not every man that can get manure; they generally sow part of their allotment with tares as early after the harvest as they can; in May they are dug in as manure for that part; others will sow rye or clover, with the same intent; then with the little muck they manure about half of it, and, *vice versâ*, that which is tares one year is mucked the next; and I believe that system will extend among the farmers; and that is one of the things to which I allude as a cause for the land being more productive.

11673. Would there be any objection to extend those allotments, so as to enable them to raise something for their pigs?—From many questions I have asked, they all agree that one rood is as much as they can manage well, if they are in constant work.

11674. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do you find a willingness on the part of the labouring population to become possessed of those gardens?—Yes.

11675. And therefore it is an inducement to good conduct, the possession of one of those gardens?—Yes.

11676. Mr. *Hodges.*] Have you seen those gardens?—I am in the habit of seeing them most days; I often walk across them.

11677. Is it stiff land or light land?—It is partly light, and partly moory land.

11678. It is land easily worked?—Yes.

11679. How near is it to any market-town?—Within two miles.

11680. Do they carry their produce to the market?—They consume it very nearly all themselves.

11681. How far is each allotment from their habitations?—Some of the farthest may be three-quarters of a mile; the parish of Maulden extends lengthways, and this is in the centre of the town.

11682. It is divided among the people in the town?—One hundred and twenty have gardens, of one rood each.

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11683. Are the persons having those gardens resident in the parish?—They are labouring men living in detached cottages.

11684. Is it the custom in that country to furnish the cottages of the labouring men with gardens?—They have some.

11685. Not to a large amount?—No.

11686. Mr. *Scrope.*] Is the rent that is paid for those allotments an average farmer's rent?—It is 10*s.* a year, the Duke of Bedford paying all rates and taxes, and all charges.

11687. That does not exceed what would be paid, clear of all taxes, by the farmer?—This is a very good bit of land, and any man would be glad to get it.

11688. Is the produce raised by the labouring man more per acre than would be raised by the farmer, on the average system of cultivation?—I think it is.

11689. All that increase goes to the advantage of the labourers?—Yes.

11690. Mr. *Hodges.*] Would this advantage be equally great upon stiff and clay land?—I question it; but I have one man who works for me, and lives a mile and a half from the town, and he has stiff land; but he has made it almost as light as the other, but it is by putting sand on.

11691. In those districts of England, where very stiff clay land prevails, those allotments would hardly be of benefit to the labourers, would they?—The difficulty would be in working it; there 20 poles would be of more advantage to a man than a larger quantity; he would not have time enough to attend to more.

11692. *Chairman.*] Even in the case of stiff land, you think it would be desirable to give him a small quantity?—Yes, I am an advocate for that.

11693. Mr. *Hodges.*] That is, you are an advocate for the principle that every man should have a good garden?—Yes.

11694. But this is something more than a good garden?—A rood.

11695. A rood of stiff land would be a difficult undertaking for a man with a spade?—Yes; I would lessen the quantity in that case; he might work 20 poles; and I would require that no more than one-half of the land should ever be sown with corn.

11696. Are you not apprehensive that the allotment system, though advantageous in those districts of which you speak, may lead to this inconvenience, that if the population increases, it will be necessary still further to subdivide land among the parties?—No doubt of it; as the population increases, those men will be all anxious to obtain some, unless you take your stand and say "You shall have no more."

11697. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do you think it may operate as an inducement to men to marry, in order to get allotments?—If you say "When a man is married he shall have an allotment," it might have that effect.

11698. Mr. *Hodges.*] Could you refuse any man who was married an allotment?—Yes, you might; the steward of the Duke comes to my house, if any man has not paid his rent, I have five or six applications, I recommend the parties to Mr. Bennett.

11699. If they rely upon the profits of the allotment and are turned out, is there not danger of exciting that revengeful feeling which there is in Ireland, when they are removed from their little acres?—No, I do not think, having land to this small extent, it will; I cannot think that it would have that effect.

11700. At any rate, the allotment system can only be a profit to the labourer where the land is light and free working?—I think you may let them have strong land to work, to a certain extent, beneficially.

11701. If they work strong land, of course it takes more labour?—Yes.

11702. Then, if it takes more labour, is there no danger of its inducing the workman to husband his own power in working for his master, in order that when the day's work is over, he may have strength sufficient to cultivate his own land?—There is danger that such a thing may happen, and no doubt will happen.

11703. Mr. *Langdale.*] Independently of the labourer's own work employed upon his land, do not you suppose that the wife and children can contribute very much to the cultivation of the land?—The children would, where plaiting is not introduced; but where there is plaiting or lace-making, they can earn more money at that; but they can assist the father.

11704. But where there is not the employment of plaiting or lace-making, the wife and children would assist in the cultivation of the allotment of land?—

Yes,

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Yes, very much; I often see, in my own place, the children assisting the father in the evening, weeding the onions and carrots.

11705. Mr. *Scrope.*] Do not you believe that, over and above the profit that a labourer may obtain from his allotment, there is a very large source of gratification opened to him thereby, in the amusement and pleasure that he has in seeing his crops grow, and as a recreation for his family, that he is more than repaid?—No doubt it is a source of no little pleasure to him, to go round and look at his crops.

11706. Mr. *Langdale.*] Has it not also a tendency to keep the man away from the public-house, by his cultivating his land, when, otherwise, he might have some little time to stray into public-houses?—It has that effect.

11707. Mr. *Scrope.*] When was the allotment system introduced?—Eight or ten years ago.

11708. Was there any disposition exhibited, on the part of the farmers, of opposition to its introduction?—Not the least.

11709. Mr. *Hodges.*] What is the average of cottage-rents in your part of the country?—The Duke of Bedford's are all low; he hardly ever charges more than 40*s.*; but I know people charge as much as 4*l.*

11710. But generally what should you say they were?—About 3*l.*

11711. What do those cottages consist of; two or three bed-rooms?—In many instances, I am sorry to say, not more than one; one great thing that would tend more to the improvement of the morals of the people than any other, would be to get more bed-rooms; there are father and mother and son and daughter sleeping all together.

11712. Mr. *Langdale.*] In the 3*l.* do you comprehend any garden land?—In some instances no land at all.

11713. Mr. *Scrope.*] Are you in the practice of rating the smaller classes of cottages?—Every cottage.

11714. Do not you think that the exemption from rate would be an indulgence which would be greatly to the advantage of the lower class of labourers?—If you were to exempt the smaller cottages from rate, you would have your cottages smaller still, in order to get the exemption; but I do hope that the landlords will be called upon to pay the rates of the cottages; it would make the cottages more comfortable than they are now.

11715. But if cottages not of small size, but all cottages under 5*l.*, were exempt from rate, there would be no inducement to build them of a lower description within that class?—No.

11716. And that would be an encouragement to the building of that class of cottages which are occupied by the lower peasantry, and would be so far beneficial to their morals?—Yes, if you exempt them up to 5*l*; but I think that there is a very great deal of that sort of property that ought not to be exempted; it would be unjust to exempt them up to 5*l.* from rates.

11717. Would not that exemption be to the advantage not of the owner of the property but of the occupier?—I do not know whether it would or not.

11718. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do not you think it is a good thing to produce a feeling on the part of the population, that they should contribute according to their means to the support of each other by paying rates?—There are various opinions; some of the men do not like it; I have heard some of the men object to paying them; and I have known other instances where it has been a check; men have mentioned that so and so has had relief, and he had no business to have it.

11719. Does it not give the same interest to the labouring classes, as far as their payment goes in keeping down the rates, that the farmer or any other individual has?—It would, to that extent.

11720. Do not you think that would be beneficial?—I do not know; my opinion is to take the cottages all away from rates; it makes them exceedingly angry, and it will do so much more under the new Act where they are rated to their value, because I can mention cottages that have been paying 1*s.*, and which are cheap at 4*l.*, and will be assessed at that, and the rate upon that sort of property will be increased more than upon any other property.

11721. Do you mean that there will be an advance upon cottages beyond the advance upon other property?—I do think so.

11722. Then the objection is, not that the cottages should pay rate, but that they

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they should be paying a greater rate in proportion than the rest of the community?—Theirs will be an increased rate, in many instances, but their property will be put upon an equality with all other property.

11723. The objection is, that they will be paying a greater proportion of rate than they did pay before?—They will.

11724. Therefore, the objection does not hold good to their paying rate as they did before, but that they are rated to a higher degree than other individuals are?—Yes.

11725. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you also find that there is an objection to paying rate at all, that the shilling, or however trifling the payment may be, is felt to be a grievance?—Some object, and some do not; I know many do object to it.

11726. Do you think that the dissatisfaction is greater than the advantage of giving the poor an interest in the administration of the poor-rate?—I do not, indeed.

11727. There is an advantage in making the poor person feel that he has an interest in seeing that the rate is not improperly applied?—There is no doubt of that.

11728. And there is a disposition on the part of the poor to complain of cases of hardship where people are not relieved?—Where people have had relief who ought not to have had relief, they do occasionally complain of that, and say, "So and so is as able to maintain himself as I am."

11729. Do not they also complain of aged persons and others who have not received relief when they ought?—They do in some cases.

11730. And giving them an interest in the administration of the poor fund is likely to lead them to think more reasonably upon the subject?—I have no doubt it would.

11731. Mr. *Hodges.*] You have lived in Bedfordshire 24 years?—I have.

11732. During that time what has been the variation in rent; is it higher than it was, or lower?—Considerably lower.

11733. Is it not the custom in that country when a farm is let, that there are a number of cottages standing upon it to be let?—I have five cottages upon my farm.

11734. Do you recollect what rents were paid for those cottages 24 years ago?—When I took my farm there was so much land, and so many houses; there was no distinction.

11735. But, generally speaking, are the rents taken from the inhabitants of those cottages the same as they were then?—They are the same; for my men have not paid rent during the 24 years that I have lived on that farm.

11736. But are not the rents of cottages generally about the same as they were then?—I think they are.

11737. Is it not a little hard upon the labourer, that although the farmer has had a considerable abatement of rent, he has not abated the rent of the labourer?—I have known many instances where the farmers have charged their cottagers the rack-rent; the cottages in the hands of the farmers are lower rented than any other cottages.

11738. But still they are not lower rented than they were 24 years ago?—Not lower.

11739. But the farmer has very considerably had his rent lowered?—Yes.

11740. Does it not seem a little hard that the same advantage is not given to the labourer as to the farmer?—The farmer wanted a reduction in the rent for the land, because the produce of his land was so much lower, not for the cottages; he never took into consideration the cottages.

11741. But speaking of his rent generally, which included the houses upon which he lived, and all the buildings, that is lower than when you first knew the county?—Yes.

11742. You also say, that cottage rents are not lower, does it not, therefore, seem a little harsh measure upon the labourer, that he has not had the benefit of the reduction of rent which the farmer has had?—No, I do not think so.

11743. Mr. *Chairman.*] The rent of cottages must be measured by the number of cottages in proportion to the population?—Yes.

11744. Mr. *Langdale.*] Are the cottages standing upon a farm generally let to the labourers employed upon the farm?—Yes, generally.

11745. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Are you aware that considerable inconvenience is felt by

by the labouring population from the want of an uniform system as to rating or not rating cottages?—Yes.

11746. In some parishes they rate the cottages, and in an immediate parish cottages are not rated, so that men who live very near together are subjected to two different rules?—They are; that is complained of.

11747. You know the parish of Westoning; are you aware that in the last year, 1837, cottages were entirely exempted from the rate?—Cottages have been exempted, I understand, in Westoning.

11748. Mr. *Scrope.*] The law is the same in all parishes; it is in the power of the vestry, with the sanction of the magistrates, to exempt the lower class of cottages from rate in every parish, is it not?—Yes.

11749. How do you account, then, for the variation in different parishes?—They are not exempted by the authority of the magistrates, but by their own authority. Under the new rate, which I hold in my hand, the overseers must collect it, or get them excluded by the magistrates.

11750. Your opinion is, that some uniformity should be introduced, and, on the whole, that the lower class of cottages should be exempt from rate, either by making the owners liable, or, as an alternative, that there should be a total exemption of them?—I would not exempt them all; I think all property ought to pay rates; the landlord ought to pay for all beyond a certain value.

11751. Would not that tend to put a check upon the supply of cottages for the poor?—I think not.

11752. At present there exists a premium upon the investment of capital, in the partial exemption from rate of cottages?—Cottages do not increase as fast as population; that is very clear.

11753. Mr. *Freshfield.*] And you find that high rents of cottages are generally imposed by small tradesmen, and persons of that sort?—Yes, they are.

THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
24 *May* 1838.

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THIRTY-SIXTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
25 *May* 1838.

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Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

25 *May* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Charles Mott, Esq. - - - - - - - p. 1 & 19

James Corder, Esq. - - - - - - - - p. 7

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 25° *die Maii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Barneby.	Mr. Langdale.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Hodges.

Mr. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Charles Mott, Esq., called in; and Examined.

11754. *Chairman.*] ARE you an Assistant Poor Law Commissioner?—I am.

11755. How long have you been employed in that capacity?—As Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, since the early part of November 1834.

11756. Have you been principally employed in the superintendence of unions in large towns and populous places?—I was employed first in various parts of the country, Suffolk and Wiltshire, but latterly my time has been entirely devoted to the metropolitan districts.

11757. For what time?—The last two years.

11758. Prior to your being appointed Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, had you had any experience in parochial matters?—My time has been entirely, I may say, devoted to it for the last fifteen years, principally in the metropolis, and some portion of the country, Gosport and other places.

11759. Has the management of the workhouses come under your observation?—Very extensively; I formerly contracted for the supply of a large number of poor.

11760. Had you ever the management of any workhouse?—Yes, the workhouses of Lambeth and Newington.

11761. Mr. *Langdale.*] Are most of the poorhouses in London still under the operation of the old law?—No, very few under the operation of the old law.

11762. Your acquaintance extends to those under the old law as well as those under the new?—To both.

11763. Can you give the Committee any information as to the general rules with regard to the inmates being allowed to go out of the workhouses on the Sunday to attend their respective places of worship?—Under the old system it was customary to allow the paupers who dissented from the church to go to their places of worship once in the course of the Sunday; and in most of the London workhouses there was a provision made for the attendance of a clergyman in the workhouse for those of the established church; those who dissented from the established church were suffered to go out, perhaps either in the morning or the afternoon; but I am sorry to say that very few of them applied that time properly.

11764. Is there any alteration in that respect in the unions under the new law?—To a certain extent that rule has not been carried out so strictly as it has in the rural districts.

11765. What rule do you allude to?—The confining the paupers on Sunday to the workhouse.

11766. Do you mean that under the new law there is more liberty granted of going out than under the old?—No, certainly not; but the rule which the Commissioners have thought it right to establish for the service of workhouses, has not been so fully carried into effect as the other regulations have been.

11767. Speaking of unions where the new law has been introduced, is there any instance in London where the inmates who dissent from the established

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church are refused the privilege of attending worship in their own chapels on the Sunday?—Most of the London boards of guardians have required that the parties should be known to be going to their own places of worship; they have required certificates from the ministers of the chapels which they attend, and they are not allowed to go in a body; but there have been repeated instances of their allowing individuals of different sects to go to their different places of worship.

11768. Do you know, of your own knowledge, instances where that has been refused?—Certainly not.

11769. Is there any rule as to the mode in which the certificate is obtained?—The City of London Union have allowed only the parties who wished to communicate to go to their several places of worship, and not made it a general rule for paupers to be allowed to go out.

11770. When you say "wish to communicate," do you mean when they wish to receive the sacrament?—Yes.

11771. But if they do not actually wish to receive the sacrament, are not they allowed to attend their places of worship?—They have chaplains appointed for the purpose of attending, and they will not let them go out in a body, for I am sorry to say, that a privilege of that description would turn the religion of a great many of them.

11772. Can you suggest to the Committee any mode by which those who dissent from the established church might attend their regular places of worship, without being liable to abuse?—Unfortunately the larger portion of the paupers have no particular religious feelings; I do not think there is 5 per cent. of paupers in the workhouses that really are religiously disposed.

11773. *Chairman.*] When you say that, you are speaking of workhouses in large towns?—I confine my observation to the London population.

11774. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do you find, with people in that state of indifference, any objection to their attending the religion of the established church?—None whatever.

11775. Are you acquainted with any workhouses in which there are a considerable number of Roman catholics?—If I may judge of the body of the paupers by an experiment which I myself made, I should say, there are very few of the paupers that are Roman catholics.

11776. *Chairman.*] What was that experiment?—I took for some considerable time an account of every pauper who came into the Newington workhouse, as to their religious persuasions, and I found that there were but three catholics out of 300; that is 1 per cent.

11777. Mr. *Langdale.*] In Newington workhouse was there a chaplain of the established church?—There was a chaplain of the established church, and a dissenting minister allowed to come in as well.

11778. They performed service in the workhouse?—Yes.

11779. Were the inmates of the workhouse required to attend one or other of those ministers?—They were expected to attend; but they were not required to do so.

11780. Was there service on the week days as well as on the Sunday?—Once on the week day, by the clergyman of the established church, and once by the dissenting minister, as well as on the Sunday.

11781. Were the children of the inmates taught any religious creed, during the week, or on the Sunday?—I regret to state that the children were very much neglected in most of the old workhouses, both as to their moral and religious instruction.

11782. Was Newington workhouse, to which you allude, under the old law?—It was then under the old law.

11783. Are you aware of any instances in which Roman catholics have felt a reluctance to going into the workhouses, for fear their children should be forced to be instructed in the religion of the established church?—I have never known any difficulty to arise, or any opinion given as to that.

11784. Possibly difficulties of that sort might have arisen without its coming to your knowledge?—From my very extensive experience, I should doubt whether cases of that kind could have arisen without my knowledge; and it was so well known that the parochial authorities always gave the power to those persons

persons to attend their places of worship, that I do not think it was likely to operate at all in that way.

11785. Then, generally speaking, in those workhouses Roman catholics would have been permitted, and are permitted, to attend their own places of worship?—I know instances in which they have been permitted under the new law.

11786. Do you know instances under the new law in which they have been refused permission to attend their own places of worship?—I do not.

11787. Do you know, under the new or under the old law, any workhouses in which the children are obliged by the rules of the workhouse to be brought up in the religion of the established church?—Decidedly not; the Commissioners' rules expressly provide for that.

11788. Do you think that those rules are not frequently broken through?—I know of no instance of their being broken through.

11789. Are you acquainted with the workhouse of St. Pancras?—That is not under the regulations of the Commissioners.

11790. But the question was as to workhouses either under the old or the new law; can you state whether the children of that workhouse are forced to attend the service of the established church, be they catholics or not, and are instructed in the religion of the established church?—I have not had the means of becoming acquainted with that.

11791. Are you acquainted with the workhouse of Mary-le-bone?—No otherwise than from an inspection of it; that is not under the regulation of the Commissioners.

11792. Then your answer to the last question applies with regard to Mary-le-bone?—I can only make the same reply; that, not having sufficient knowledge of that workhouse, I am not able to speak to the fact.

11793. Then you are not aware of any instance in which, under the old law or the new, either adults or children, who dissent, are required to attend the service of the established church on Sundays or on week-days in the workhouses?—Certainly not; I am not aware of any instances.

11794. Nor in which the children are required to be instructed in any part of the established faith?—Certainly not.

11795. Will you be so good as to read the 19th clause of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—"And be it further Enacted, that no rules, orders or regulations of the said Commissioners, nor any bye-laws at present in force, or to be hereafter made, shall oblige any inmate of any workhouse to attend any religious service which may be celebrated in a mode contrary to the religious principles of such inmate; nor shall authorize the education of any child in such workhouse in any religious creed, other than that professed by the parents or surviving parent of such child, and to which such parents or parent shall object, or, in the case of an orphan, to which the godfather or godmother of such orphan shall so object: provided also, that it shall and may be lawful for any licensed minister of the religious persuasion of any inmate of such workhouse, at all times in the day, on the request of such inmate, to visit such workhouse for the purpose of affording religious assistance to such inmate, and also for the purpose of instructing his child or children in the principles of their religion."

11796. Is it not perfectly clear by that clause that it would be an infringement of the law if any child were educated in any religious creed other than that professed by the parents or godfather or godmother of such child, or in case the inmates should be obliged to attend any religious service celebrated in a mode contrary to their religious principles; is not that the fact?—It is.

11797. And, as far as your knowledge goes, you have no information that would induce you to suppose that this clause has been infringed?—I have no knowledge of any instances of its having been infringed.

11798. But, under this Act, there appears to be no obligation on the part of the governors of a workhouse to allow either dissenting children or adults to attend their respective places of worship on the Sabbath day?—There is no authority of that description, and I should very much doubt the propriety of allowing it to the paupers as a body.

11799. Do not you think that some regulation might be made by which it would be safer to allow inmates of workhouses to go out in a body than to go out separately and individually?—I would rather permit it for recreation than religious worship, provided it was limited to the aged and infirm.

11800. Do not you think it is desirable that every individual inmate of a

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workhouse who wishes it should have the means of practising his religion on the Sabbath day?—I do think it highly desirable.

11801. Are you aware that there is a very strict obligation imposed upon the catholic by his religion to attend the morning service on the Sabbath day?—I have understood so.

11802. In case he has an opportunity of doing so, he is bound, under a penalty of great moral guilt if he neglects, to attend the morning service on the Sunday?—I think the permission is already given; I do not know of any instance where it has been refused to catholics, but perhaps it would be better secured to them by law.

11803. Do not you think that, consistently with good order, some regulation might be made, affixing the penalty of being detained within the workhouse for a fortnight or a month in case of any infringement of order or regularity, and that some general law might be adopted to allow the paupers to attend their respective places of worship on the Sabbath?—I am not aware of any injury that could arise to the law by such a permission.

11804. Then, in case it was found that in some instances in different parts of the country individual governors or boards of guardians made use of their power, and prevented individuals, or prevented a certain number of inmates of workhouses from attending their service on the Sabbath day, that it would be desirable that some law should establish the right of the inmates of workhouses to practise their religion on the Sunday?—I think a discretion by the local guardians would be likely to meet the case, if they had the power given them.

11805. Do not you think, in some instances, that power might be abused if the inmates were not under the protection of the law?—Individual instances might occur in which guardians might be disposed to act harshly in that way; but I confess that my experience and observation of the attention to these subjects on the part of the boards of guardians would not warrant me in saying that they would be likely to be harsh.

11806. If cases were brought before this Committee to prove that such abuses did exist, would not that induce you to think that some regulation should be made in order to prevent the recurrence of such cases?—I think it would be much more satisfactory, not only to the paupers, but to the guardians themselves, if the law were defined upon that head.

11807. Would it not be a means of enabling children to receive instruction in their religious persuasions when they could not, under other circumstances, be enabled to receive it?—I think it might.

11808. And, under certain regulations, you see no difficulty in allowing the inmates of workhouses, whether adults or children, to attend their respective places of worship, provided there is the means within reach of their doing so?—The only difficulty I should apprehend would be what I have frequently found to be the case, that the parties would not employ the time so granted them as it was desired.

11809. Do not you think that some mode might be adopted to secure the orderly conduct of those who left the workhouse under those circumstances, and to secure their attendance on their places of worship, by the infliction of some punishment in case of any disorderly conduct?—That would correct any evil that might arise, to a certain extent; I still think that it would be better if the boards of guardians had a certain degree of discretion in those cases.

11810. Would it not be a sufficient discretion to allow the boards of guardians to make certain orders and regulations under which the permission should be given?—Yes, I think that that would meet the object.

11811. You think that would prevent the abuse of the privilege?—Yes.

11812. And, under those circumstances, that it would be desirable that the inmates of workhouses should be enabled to attend their respective places of worship on the Sabbath?—I think there would be no difficulty if those regulations were established.

11813. *Chairman.*] In most of the union workhouses under your regulation is there a chaplain?—In most of them.

11814. In those in which there is not a chaplain have you recommended the board of guardians to appoint one?—I scarcely know where there is not a chaplain, or a religious instructor of some description.

11815. Where there is a chaplain, what is the practice that he adopts?—To read prayers, in some cases, twice on the Sunday, and preach a sermon twice, but

but in others only once on the Sunday; to catechize the children, and to attend the sick, and generally to offer religious instruction and consolation to all the inmates of the workhouse.

11816. Is he in the habit of taking any part in the education of the children?—No, I do not know any instance of that, except that he examines them as to their progress.

11817. The master of the workhouse, by the regulations of the Commissioners, is instructed to read prayers to the paupers before breakfast and after supper every day, is he not?—He is, or cause them to be read.

11818. Those prayers are the prayers according to the form of the established church?—Yes.

11819. Are the members of sects differing from the church of England required to be present during the reading of those prayers?—Unless there is any notice given of the dissent of the parents, they are all considered as belonging to the established church.

11820. Is it not a regulation with respect to the workhouses, that the religious persuasion of every pauper should be ascertained upon his admission to the workhouse?—Yes.

11821. The question is always asked of the pauper to what religious persuasion he belongs?—As soon as they get under the regulations of the law, the master of the workhouse is instructed to ascertain the religious persuasion of the paupers.

11822. Then, that being the first step taken, it must be known whether a pauper does or does not belong to the church of England?—Yes.

11823. Then, when the master of the workhouse reads prayers every day, are the dissenters from the church of England required to be present at those prayers?—They are not forced to be present.

11824. Will you take the Second Report of the Poor Law Commissioners into your hand, and turn to the 66th page, the letter addressed, from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated the 4th of February 1836, to Lord John Russell, the Secretary of State; if you look to the 67th page, you will see a paragraph beginning, "It appears to us, that paupers"—will you be so good as to read it?—"It appears to us, that paupers living within the walls of a workhouse have a right to claim to be protected from all annoyance on account of religious belief. They are so situated as to be deprived of the means of defending themselves against intrusion, which a man living in his own cottage is fortunate enough to possess. To place any one under circumstances in which he cannot but be present at, and in some degree take a share in, the forms of religious worship which are not consistent with his own belief, is evidently an undue breach of religious liberty. This is peculiarly evident with respect to Roman catholics, whose clergy maintain and enforce among their flocks, to its fullest extent, the rule, *Nulla communis in sacris cum hereticis*. That Roman catholics should be placed in a situation in which they could not easily avoid forming part of a protestant congregation, is evidently improper. It would, we think, in like manner and by a strict parity of reasoning, be improper also that members of the church of England, Unitarians, Baptists, Wesleyans, or Independents should be either induced or constrained to join in a form of worship which is not that of their own religious community."

11825. Do you not infer from those passages of the Commissioners' letter, that it is their impression that persons should not be required to attend the service of any religious community, which is not in conformity with their own faith?—Decidedly, and I have never known any boards of guardians deviate from that.

11826. Have you ever known any objection made to a minister, of any religious persuasion, seeing a pauper of his own sect?—I have never known any instance of refusal.

11827. Are applications frequently made by ministers of different denominations, to see paupers of their persuasion?—The applications are not so numerous as might be imagined.

11828. Have you ever observed that applications have been made on the part of Roman catholics to see members of their own flocks?—I have known several instances of applications, which have invariably been granted.

11829. Then, as far as the workhouse is concerned, does it appear to you that sufficient precaution is taken, in order to obtain perfect religious liberty for all its inmates?—I think quite so.

 11830. Supposing

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11830. Supposing that it should be desired by the paupers, and should be the wish of the clergyman, of any denomination, that paupers should attend their chapels, either for the purpose of receiving the sacrament in their own manner, or for general purposes of religious worship, can you devise any expedient by which it might be safe that that permission should be granted?—The only safe mode I know of would be by the certificate of the minister himself.

11831. You think it would be desirable that upon the pauper applying for permission to go to that place of worship, he should bring back from the minister of that chapel a certificate that he had been present at that chapel?—Or a written request from the minister that he should be allowed to attend, which would answer the same purpose.

11832. Do not you think that besides the written request of the minister that he should be allowed to attend, it would be desirable that he should produce a certificate that he had attended?—It would be desirable.

11833. And instances of applications of this sort would not be numerous in each particular class?—On the contrary, I think if a rule of that kind were adopted, it would tend to check the applications.

11834. Would it throw any unnecessary impediment in the way of those who were seriously desirous of attending their places of worship?—Certainly not.

11835. But, at the same time, would it not be a check upon those parties who might wish to go out of the workhouse, under pretence of attending places of worship, but who really go out to pass their time elsewhere?—There is no question that it would check that.

11836. And you think that permission, under the check and the precautions you have described, might safely be given?—I do.

11837. Mr. *Langdale*.] Should you have an opportunity of making some inquiry upon those heads to which the questions have been directed, if your examination is put into your hands on some future day?—Yes.

11838. In case it is discovered, upon inquiry, that the inmates of workhouses are in fact required, in some instances, to attend the worship of the established church during week-days, would it not be desirable that some general information should be given to the workhouses, as to the state of the law upon this subject?—I think it would be desirable that it should be hung up in different halls.

11839. That some notices should be hung up in workhouses for public inspection?—Yes.

11840. In case there were several paupers attending any particular place of worship, on the Sunday, would not there be a difficulty in each individual getting a certificate signed by the clergyman?—I do not apprehend there would; the numbers are not so large as to render any difficulty of that kind probable.

11841. Do not you think that in some of the workhouses in Lancashire, the number of catholics in the workhouses may be extremely numerous?—I think that might be met by the suggestion I made before, that they might go in a body, provided they belonged to some particular place.

11842. You have stated that an individual is asked his religious persuasion when he comes into the workhouse; do you mean to say by that, that he is bound by that declaration, during the whole of the time that he may remain in the workhouse?—I apprehend he should be; otherwise it would lead to those of the established church changing their religious persuasions, for the purpose of getting the liberty which you contemplate giving to the others.

11843. Do not you think that if an individual dissenter who came into the workhouse wished to practise and embrace the religion of the established church, he should be allowed to do so?—Decidedly, but I think the check that has been suggested, would render any change of that kind a matter of little consequence.

11844. If an individual, who is a dissenter from the established church, entered the workhouse, declaring himself to be a dissenter, do not you think, that in case he chose to embrace the religion of the established church, he should be allowed to do so?—Certainly.

11845. If that is the case, do not you think that a member of the established church, if he chose to embrace a different creed during the time he was in the workhouse, should be allowed to do so?—Most unquestionably, and I think the form of requiring a certificate would render that change of little importance, as to what they professed when they came in.

James Corder, Esq. called in; and Examined.

11846. *Chairman.*] ARE you clerk to one of the boards of guardians?—I am clerk to the board of guardians of the Strand Union. *James Corder*, Esq. 25 May 1838.

11847. How long have you been so?—Since its formation in April 1836.

11848. Were you, before you were appointed to that situation, conversant with parish business?—I had been vestry clerk of the parish of St. Paul, Covent Garden, which now forms part of that union, for nearly nine years previous to the formation of the union.

11849. You have heard the examination of Mr. Mott; have you any observation to make upon that examination, with reference to the attendance of paupers at their own places of worship?—I beg to state that, as regards the parish of Saint Paul, Covent-garden, the practice of allowing pauper inmates to attend their respective places of worship, was found to be so much abused, that it was wholly discontinued; this took place long before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act. The propriety of this new rule was, however, questioned by some very respectable dissenters, inhabitants of the parish, and a meeting of the rate-payers was called, at which it was discussed. At that meeting of the rate-payers, in public vestry assembled, it was resolved, that the rule was a good one; but a resolution was carried, requesting the parochial authorities to relax it, in favour of any well-disposed or seriously-inclined pauper.

11850. The parish authorities being the judges of the disposition of the paupers?—Yes.

11851. Who were the parish authorities?—The churchwardens and the overseers, and the committee of management elected under the local Act then in existence, and who might be considered as standing in the place of the present board of guardians, although more popularly elected; this recommendation of the vestry was never acted upon, up to the time of the formation of the union; there was no instance in which it was determined advisable that this relaxation should take place.

11852. Have there been applications made for permissions to go to different places of divine worship?—There have been many, which it was my duty to read at the meeting of the board.

11853. Were those applications taken into consideration at the meetings of the board?—They were.

11854. Were they uniformly refused?—They were.

11855. Upon what ground?—Upon examining into the cases of the applicants it was found that they were not cases in which it was advisable that any relaxation of the rule should take place.

11856. During that time, was there no application made by a person who might be considered a seriously-inclined person?—The committee and the parish authorities did not consider any single application entitled to be granted.

11857. Then the practice was, as you say, uniformly to refuse it; that being the rule, what provision was made for the religious instruction of the inmates of the workhouse?—Not so good at that time as it now is; we had a chaplain of the workhouse in Cleveland-street, but he was the curate of the parish, and it was inconvenient for him, to attend the workhouse on the Sunday; the consequence was, that the paupers had divine service performed only once a week, on the Friday evening; under the new law they have not only week-day service, but they have service twice on the Sunday, with a sermon.

11858. By whom is the week-day service performed?—By the chaplain.

11859. Does he attend more than once a week?—Twice on the Sunday, and once in the week at each of the workhouses in the union; we have two workhouses.

11860. Is he also in the habit of visiting the workhouse for the purpose of observing the condition of the inmates?—Yes, and of visiting the sick wards, and administering religious consolation to the aged and sick paupers.

11861. In case of any application from a pauper for religious instruction and consolation, the chaplain would attend?—Certainly; he is immediately sent for, and invariably obeys the summons.

11862. Was there any insurance of that under the former law?—Certainly not; the clergyman would have attended to administer the sacrament to a sick or dying pauper, but the attendance was not by any means so good as it now is.

11863. What was the practice with regard to the inmates of the workhouse who might happen to be members of different dissenting congregations?—I remember

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remember an application being made by some dissenters for permission to attend and administer religious consolation, or probably to deliver discourses to the inmates of the house.

11864. Were those dissenting ministers?—I believe they were licensed teachers; and it was refused by the then parish officers.

11865. On what ground was it refused?—They considered that the attendance of the chaplain, whose office and duty it was, was sufficient; the practice now is very different.

11866. The parish officers considered that the religious instruction should be confined to instruction according to the doctrines of the church of England?—Their decision, practically, had that effect.

11867. What is the practice now?—The workhouse doors are open to every catholic clergyman, dissenting minister or properly qualified teacher, at the request of any of the inmates of the workhouse.

11868. Just explain what you mean by a properly qualified teacher?—I believe dissenting ministers take out their license at the quarter sessions.

11869. Any of those parties, so licensed by law to instruct persons in religious matters, are allowed to attend paupers of their own persuasion in the workhouse?—Certainly.

11870. Mr. *Liddell.*] Upon the application of those paupers?—Yes, upon the application of any inmate of the house.

11871. *Chairman.*] That applies to catholics as well as to other dissenters?—Yes.

11872. Have you any catholics in your workhouse?—We have; I may state that the catholic clergymen do not attend, except in cases of extreme danger, and then for the purpose of administering the extreme unction. If any catholic inmate expresses a wish to see his or her priest, a messenger is sent to that priest.

11873. Mr. *Liddell.*] But you say they do not usually attend those summonses, except in cases of extreme illness?—The masters of the workhouses tell me, that only in cases of extreme danger do they attend, and then for the purpose of administering the extreme unction.

11874. *Chairman.*] What is the state of the inmates of the workhouse, with respect to religious worship within the workhouse; do you allow any members of dissenting congregations, whether catholic or protestant, to go to their own chapels?—We do not; the question has been more than once mooted at our board, and in each instance the board have decided that the practice was inconvenient and inexpedient.

11875. During the time that you were connected with the administration of affairs in St. Paul's, Covent-garden, did you ever observe that any inconvenience resulted from parties being allowed to leave the workhouse for the purpose of going to their own places of religious worship?—My own opinion is, from practical observation, that not in one case out of ten was the permission properly used as regards the established church. I used to make particular observation, and I do not believe that, out of 200 paupers, five were in the habit of attending the established church; and in visiting the workhouse, which at that time I frequently did after church on the Sunday, I have frequently seen the paupers returning in a state of intoxication. It was no uncommon practice for some of them to be seen in a place called Seven Dials, near to St. Giles-in-the Fields, congregated together, also in a state of inebriety.

11876. Were those parties who had left the workhouse upon their own application, having expressed a desire to attend a place of worship?—No; at that time permission was given to all the inmates to go; and the abuse of that privilege led to the utter abrogation of the rule.

11877. The observations you have just made apply to persons who professed themselves to be members of the church of England?—Certainly; but I speak as regards members of the established church, because the great majority of the inmates profess to be members of the established church.

11878. Mr. *Liddell.*] The privilege you alluded to, in your last answer but one, was the privilege of absenting themselves from the workhouse on the Sabbath?—Yes.

11879. That privilege was conferred under the idea that they wished to avail themselves of that opportunity of attending religious worship?—Yes.

11880. Mr. *Freshfield.*] That applied to paupers of all denominations?—Yes.

11881. *Chairman.*] Do you observe that the same results took place with reference to Roman catholics or protestant dissenters who might be in the house?—I am sorry to say that they did.

11882. That being the case, have you heard what Mr. Mott has said of the necessity of making some regulation in order to ascertain that those parties do attend their own places of worship?—I have.

11883. Do you concur in the propriety of granting no relaxation of the refusal which now exists, under the precautions stated, or any other precautions that might be devised?—On principle, it might seem to be extremely desirable; but I think, in practice, that it would be very inconvenient and inexpedient. I consider, that inmates of workhouses, in not being allowed to attend their own places of worship, are only submitting to an inconvenience which many domestic servants, and soldiers and sailors, and others, are under the necessity of submitting to. In many parts of the country catholic chapels are very far distant from each other; at Wimbledon, to my own knowledge, there are several catholic families and they have no catholic chapel nearer to them than Hammersmith, and, in the other direction, beyond Croydon.

11884. Though that may be true with reference to particular localities and particular classes of persons and pursuits in life, still in a matter so important as religious worship, should you not think it desirable to give every facility to the inmates of the workhouse, that was compatible with the regulation and order of the house?—If the proper use and observance of it could be insured.

11885. Do not you think the precaution of requiring a certificate from the minister of the congregation, or the clerk, or some authorized officer of the congregation, that the person who had been permitted to leave the workhouse had attended the place of worship, and that he returned in a reasonable time from that place of worship, that that would be a sufficient security?—If the officer who gave that certificate was responsible; I am very much afraid that any one less responsible than the priest or minister of the chapel would not do.

11886. But, confining yourself, then, to a certificate, signed by the minister or priest of the chapel, do you think that that would be a sufficient security that the man had really attended the place of worship?—If the document certified that he knew, from his own observation, that the pauper had been there; but I am very much afraid that, unless the certificate emanated from a person of honourable feeling, for instance the clergyman who would feel the great responsibility, the practice would in a very short time dwindle into a mere formality, and that the check would be of very little avail.

11887. If you add to the precaution that has been suggested, of a certificate from the minister of the congregation, a power of imposing a penalty, in the shape of a refusal to any subsequent permission to leave the workhouse, in case of misconduct, or in case of drunkenness, or of remaining out beyond a reasonable time, should you not think the workhouse would be protected from irregular conduct?—No, I think not; and I will state why I entertain that opinion. In our union, the board of guardians have given to the inmates the privilege of going out once in the week on Monday, subject to certain restrictions.

11888. Describe the restrictions?—Between certain hours, and that they shall not be under any suspension of liberty at the time. Every Monday is the liberty day. The inmates are divided into four classes; the males go out in rotation on two Mondays, and the females on the two following Mondays. It seldom happens that any Monday passes without one or more returning in a state of intoxication. The rule, is in those cases, to suspend their liberty, and to withdraw certain indulgences for a certain period; the liberty is suspended for six months, but it frequently occurs that the same parties have their liberty suspended again and again.

18889. Mr. *Liddell.*] In principle, you would say that such a permission to paupers to attend places of worship is desirable, but that your objections are mainly founded upon your own experience in the very populous district in which you have acted?—Certainly, that is the case.

18890. May it not occur, that while those objections may be found to exist in so populous a neighbourhood as that part of London, that in many or most other localities, the permission might be comparatively innocent?—I think not; and I think any officer, practically acquainted as I have been, and of whom there are many, with the old law, would give the same opinion to the Committee.

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I think you would hardly have a workhouse master of any experience in the metropolis before you who would not give the same opinion, arising from practical experience.

11891. Even if you dare not trust the adults out of the workhouse, might not some regulation be established for the providing that the children in the workhouse should attend the parish church?—In the metropolis there are very few children in the workhouses. Under certain Acts of Parliament they are obliged, under a certain age, to be sent out of town a certain number of miles; our children are placed at Tooting, and there they have the privilege, as many as can be accommodated, of going to church, and the residue have service at home.

11892. Mr. *Langdale.*] Supposing it appears that in St. Pancras and in some of the other workhouses this liberty can be given and not abused, do you see any thing in your own particular union that should prevent its being adopted there?—The difficulty would be, as I have already stated, to prevent its being abused, and to ensure a proper observance of the privilege granted.

11893. But supposing, in fact it appears that it is adopted, and is the practice in the workhouse of St. Pancras; is there any circumstance attached to your union which would put it in a different situation from St. Pancras?—I do not think our union, either in locality or on any other ground, differs from the metropolis generally; I have already stated that, upon principle, it does seem to me to be desirable, if it can be safely accomplished, that inmates should have the privilege of attending their respective places of worship.

11894. Do you think that even a considerable degree of inconvenience would be sufficient ground to debar the individuals in the workhouse from being allowed to attend their places of worship on the Sabbath day?—I am sorry to say, that when the privilege has been granted, instead of returning home in a solemn and quiet frame of mind, they have been, as the workhouse masters tell me, more excited during the remainder of the day than if they had not been out at all.

11895. My question did not regard their returning disorderly, but the degree of inconvenience as breaking through the regular system of the workhouse; do you consider, supposing disorderly and immoral conduct could be guarded against, that the inconvenience arising from the interruption of the regularity of the workhouse ought to be sufficient ground to prevent their being permitted to attend service on the Sabbath at their respective places of worship?—I think that alone would not be sufficient ground.

11896. You conceive that the ground of objection is the immorality and disorderly conduct that occurs when the paupers are allowed to go out?—Precisely so, though I think it extremely desirable that order and discipline in the establishment should be maintained; for gentlemen not practically acquainted with the subject can hardly form an opinion of the description of characters, generally, who are inmates of the London workhouses.

11897. But supposing that some mode could be adopted for securing that the inmates who leave the workhouse really go to their places of worship, and come back again in an orderly manner; under those circumstances you would think it desirable that they should have the privilege?—On principle, I should.

11898. You have stated that soldiers and sailors have not the power of attending divine worship; are you aware that catholic soldiers, though they are in barracks, are regularly marched from their barracks to the catholic chapel on a Sunday?—When in barracks; but soldiers as well as sailors must submit to the inconvenience, when on a voyage, of not attending their own public place of worship.

11899. You mean to say by that, that when there is an impossibility of attending service they cannot do so?—They cannot.

11900. But that where there is a possibility, even in the case of soldiers, they are allowed this privilege?—By law they are, and they are marched to chapel.

11901. You have said that there are several catholics in your workhouses; will you mention a particular workhouse in which you consider there is the greatest number of catholics?—We have two workhouses, one in Cleveland-street, Fitzroy-square, and the other in Portugal-street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields; I do not think the number considerable in either, but there are several in both.

11902. What number do you suppose?—In giving the number statistically I might mislead the Committee; but in the Portugal-street house I think I understood that they are very inconsiderable; out of about 200 I think there are not more than 10 or 12; at the Cleveland-street house the number of inmates is greater.

11903. *Chairman.*]

11903. *Chairman.*] Is the number of catholics greater?—Not in proportion; I believe that out of an average number of 350 paupers in that establishment, there are not more than 20 Catholics.

11904. Mr. *Langdale.*] Have those paupers any catholic children?—I do not think that they have; we have what is generally called in London Irish casuals, in our Portugal-street house; but they are there only for a few days previously to their being passed to Ireland.

11905. Are those catholics that you allude to, forced to attend the service which is performed every day in the workhouse?—They are not compelled to attend the prayers, if they dissent from them.

11906. Have you any instance in which they have dissented from them?—I think we have had instances in which they have dissented, and have not attended; their attendance has never been enforced where they have had any religious scruples.

11907. But the general rule is that they do attend?—The general rule is that they do attend, unless they express any wish to be absent, and that wish must arise from some professed religious scruple.

11908. Do they attend also the service of the established church on the Sunday?—The same rule as regards absentees is acted upon there also, that is, they are allowed to be absent if they religiously differ from the service about to be performed.

11909. Practically, do they attend the service of the established church on Sundays?—Some of them do not do so, and are allowed to be absent; any one wishing to be absent on religious grounds is at liberty to be so: I believe there are instances, however, of some who do differ, and yet who do not object to attend.

11910. Mr. *Freshfield.*] In the case of soldiers in barracks, the catholics are marched to some place of worship?—Yes.

11911. Would protestant dissenters be allowed to stroll away from the barracks without being under the direction of a serjeant or corporal?—No, they would not.

11912. Mr. *Langdale.*] Is religious education given by the chaplain to the children in the workhouse?—He examines them in their catechisms.

11913. Then they learn a catechism in the workhouse?—What few children there are; I have already sated to the Committee, that in the metropolis, under certain Acts of Parliament, the 7th of George 3, and other Acts, children under a certain age are obliged to be sent a certain distance from the metropolis, and therefore there are not many children in the London workhouses; our children are so placed at Tooting, in Surrey.

11914. Are you aware whether there are any catholic children in the workhouse?—Occasionally there may be, but not for any long duration of time.

11915. You cannot therefore state, whether there are any catholic children educated in the faith of the established church?—Not compulsorily so, they may be inadvertently.

11916. Practically, if you knew that a child was a catholic, would he be, as a matter of course, instructed in the established religion, unless the child protested against it?—If he had parents who were known to be catholics, I think, as a matter of course, he would not.

11917. You have stated that certain individuals were found to commit excesses under the privilege of going out on Mondays, and that, though their liberty was suspended, they committed the same fault again and again?—I did.

11918. Do not you think that that was a proof that those were what might be called incorrigible offenders?—I do.

11919. And would it not be unfair to draw a general inference from the conduct of individuals of such character?—A general inference, I think it would; the reason why I made that observation to the Committee was this: I was asked whether, if catholics were allowed to attend their chapels on the Sunday, and if, upon returning disorderly or intoxicated, they were always kept in for two or three weeks, did I not think that that would tend to prevent the repetition of such offence, and I instanced those cases of repeated misconduct on the Mondays, in order to show, that in my opinion, it would not always have that effect.

11920. Do not you think that one catholic or dissenter might be guilty of repeated transgressions, and therefore forfeit the privilege of leaving the workhouse for the future, and that yet other catholics and other dissenters might be indulged with that privilege?—There might be others far more entitled to

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the indulgence of that privilege which, as I have already said, on principle, it seems desirable to grant, if the proper observance of the privilege can be duly ensured.

11921. Do not you think that where so great a principle is at stake as the practice of religion, it would at least be desirable to try what the conduct of a pauper would be before he was excluded altogether from the practice of attending a place of worship?—That is reducing the rule almost to individuality; the rule has been framed upon the result of the aggregate number of cases.

11922. My question was intended to be put in this manner: supposing the general rule was that they were allowed to attend their respective places of worship, would it not be a sufficient protection, the keeping within the workhouse those individuals who were found to abuse the privilege, without involving the innocent with the guilty?—There can be no doubt that those who have repeatedly offended ought to lose the privilege, if granted at all, altogether; as I have already observed, the difficulty would be to ensure its proper exercise. It has been suggested, that certificates should be furnished of their good behaviour, and of their attendance; and I have already said that I think those certificates would be of no value unless they emanated from the priest himself, and were made on personal observation. I fear that if they were given by the clerk or beadle of the chapel they would very soon degenerate into mere form, and that the rule would be, as heretofore, grossly abused.

11923. But the abuse to which you allude, occurs not at the chapel itself, but either in going to the chapel or in coming from the chapel?—Or perhaps in not going to the chapel at all.

11924. Would not that difficulty be got over by requiring a certificate from some person who actually saw them at chapel at the commencement of the service and at the end of the service?—I think that that would almost entirely prevent the abuse of the privilege; I think if that privilege was extended to the catholics, it ought to be extended to dissenters, and likewise to members of the established church, for you will find that although service is now performed for members of the established church in the workhouses, many of them when they found that the catholic and dissenting inmates were in the enjoyment of that privilege, would assume to be members of one or other of those churches or sects.

11925. Do you think that the members of the established church would profess themselves catholics in order to be allowed to go to a catholic place of worship?—I am sorry to say that many of that portion of them who become inmates of workhouses, I fear, would.

11926. Do not you think that some proof or certificate might be got from the minister of the particular creed which the inmate professed, stating whether or not he was really a member of such a congregation?—I think it might.

11927. And would not that be a protection against the abuse to which you have alluded?—In a great measure it would; it would not prevent misconduct after leaving the chapel; it would not prevent that, which to my knowledge has frequently occurred, of attempting to convey spirituous liquours or other improper articles into the workhouse; it would insure most certainly an attendance at the chapel.

11928. Would not the restrictions to which you have before alluded, of not allowing an inmate who transgressed the rules the same liberty afterwards, be a protection against the abuse you have just now alluded to?—For the reasons I have already stated as regards the abuse of the Monday liberty, I think not.

11929. But would not that necessarily import that every individual would abuse this privilege?—I can only draw inferences from practical experience and general results; but there are cases in which the suspension of the liberty might operate effectually and beneficially; there are others where parties are more incorrigible and where it would be of very little avail.

11930. Would it not meet your view in those cases where it is of no avail entirely to deny the privilege to those individuals who have repeatedly abused it?—To deny it altogether, I think it would.

11931. *Chairman.*] You said, if permission were given to persons professing themselves to be members of a dissenting congregation, upon the ground of their being members of some congregation, to leave the workhouse, that it would lead to the practice of members of the established church assuming to belong to some of those places of worship?—I feel satisfied that it would.

11932. You are of opinion, that, with a view to obtain the same indulgence, considering

considering the class of persons who come into the workhouse, they would profess to belong to the catholic, or the unitarian, or the baptist, or some other denomination?—I am sure that they would, and thereby it would lead to gross hypocrisy. *James Corder, Esq.* 25 May 1838.

11933. Have you felt any inconvenience, in respect to local Acts, in London, as interfering at all with the management of affairs under the new Poor Law?—Almost every parish in London has its local Act, the clauses of which differ very much from each other; and now that parishes are united under the Poor Law Amendment Act, the clashing of those clauses, or of those Acts of Parliament, is very much felt.

11934. Do you find it inconvenient, with respect to the administration of relief?—I think, not so much as regards the administration of relief, which is now placed entirely under boards of guardians, as in the making and collection of rates. There are many liabilities, too, under local Acts, placed upon the poor-rates, which, strictly speaking, according to the general law of the land, would not be legal: for instance, one of the parishes in our union, there is an annual stipend to the rector of the parish, chargeable upon the poor-rate, which, strictly speaking, ought to be payable out of the church-rates. I have heard of instances, in London, in which this has been carried to a very considerable extent.

11935. Those charges are laid upon the poor-rates, in London, under the provisions of some local Act of Parliament?—They are.

11936. Do you find the operation of any of those clauses inconvenient in the conduct of the affairs of the parish?—We do; the churchwardens and overseers are the parties who, by law, ought to make the assessment; they are the parties to whom the board of guardians would look for the payment of such sums of money as might be requisite for the relief of the poor, but under those local Acts, other bodies are created, who still claim to act; there are committees of management, boards of assistants, and other similar bodies, and the churchwardens and overseers, I believe, have felt themselves inconvenienced when they have been disposed to assist the boards of guardians, and to meet their claims, by those local bodies of whom I have spoken, interfering, and claiming the right of control over the poor-rates.

11937. Do you mean that the local bodies have interfered so as to attempt to control that part of the money collected under the poor-rate which the board of guardians have thought necessary for the relief of the poor?—I think they have thrown impediments and obstacles in the way of its payment.

11938. In what respect?—I think they have preferred the payment of other demands of a more recent date to the demands made by the board of guardians.

11939. The board of guardians orders the churchwardens and overseers to collect what money they may think necessary for the relief of the poor, do they not?—The board of guardians make an order upon the churchwardens and overseers of the respective parishes for such sums as they may consider to be requisite to meet the expenditure of the current quarter.

11940. They also state, do they not, the period within which this payment should be made?—Yes.

11941. Have you ever known that those payments have not been made at the period mentioned by the board of guardians?—I have.

11942. They have been in arrear?—Yes.

11943. Have they been subsequently paid, or have they been altogether refused?—They have been subsequently paid, but we have been under the necessity of borrowing sums of money of the treasurer in anticipation of the rates.

11944. Have you ever attempted to remedy that; have you made any application to the local boards constituted under those Acts remonstrating against that inconvenient practice?—We have written letters to them, which letters have not always had the desired effect.

11945. And you still feel, in consequence of some of the provisions of those Acts, that there is an inconvenience with respect to the payment of that part of the money which is appropriated to the relief of the poor?—There is that inconvenience; I believe that inconvenience has not been so much felt in our own union as in some neighbouring unions where opposition on the part of those local boards has been carried to a great extent indeed.

11946. Is it that the local boards have felt some jealousy of the existence of

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the board of guardians, and have attempted to interfere with their authority?—In all unions that is more or less so; in some unions, (amongst others I might instance the Holborn Union,) that has been carried to a great extent; in fact, a feeling of decided hostility on the part of the local board has been manifested, and a very large sum, in consequence, expended in law charges, by the local board opposing the operations of the board of guardians.

11947. In your own union, and confining yourself to those inconveniences which you have experienced, you have stated yourself to be under the necessity of borrowing money from the treasurer, in consequence of the sums ordered to be levied by the poor-rates not having been punctually paid?—We have.

11948. If you had not been able to borrow that money of the treasurer, what would have been the result?—The result must have been this, that the poor would have gone unrelieved and unfed.

11949. In consequence of the opposition of those boards to the legal orders of the boards of guardians?—In a great measure.

11950. Is it that the local boards do not collect the whole of the money that is ordered, or that they retain it in their own hands after they have collected it?—The boards of guardians in our union, and in most town unions, appoint collectors of rates; those collectors collect the rates and pay them into the hands of the treasurer to the credit of the churchwardens and overseers of the respective parishes. In one of the parishes of our union the local authorities, acting under their own Act, assume to themselves still the right to appoint their own collector; the consequence has been that two collectors in that district have been collecting the rates, which has led to very great inconvenience; that is still so; the local authorities have removed the order under which the board of guardians appointed the collector of rates into the Court of Queen's Bench under a writ of certiorari; and that question is now pending, and will very probably not be decided (it having gone into the special paper,) for some very considerable time.

11951. In the event of the question being decided adversely to the board of guardians, the office of collector will then rest with the authorities constituted under the local Act?—Yes.

11952. Would that give them any control over the rates, when once they were collected?—It would give them an entire control over the rates, when once collected.

11953. Would that enable them, at their discretion, to suspend or delay the payment which might be ordered by the board of guardians for the relief of the poor?—Most certainly, or to withhold it altogether.

11954. Enabling them to defeat any arrangement which the board of guardians might be making for the administration of the relief of the poor?—Precisely so.

11955. And exposing the poor, in the event of this money not being punctually paid, to the inconvenience and suffering of not being able to receive relief?—Precisely so; and exposing the board of guardians to the inconvenience of not being able to fulfil their obligations to the public contractor.

11956. And defeating the purposes of the Poor Law Amendment Act, by interfering with the most important functions of the board of guardians?—Precisely so; and greatly embarrassing and impeding their operations.

11957. And exposing the poor to positive suffering?—Yes; instances have occurred in some unions in which, unless large loans had been obtained, the greatest amount of suffering must have been inflicted upon the poor, who would have been wholly without relief.

11958. Are the board of guardians under any obligation to contract those loans, if the money has not been paid from the rates?—Under no obligation whatever; they render themselves personally liable in making the loan; they are running a great risk, because in the event of their not recovering the money from the parish, they would be personally liable, and would be bound to repay the party from whom the loan is obtained.

11959. So that the present arrangement not only exposes the board of guardians to the liability of the loss of the money which they may have raised, but exposes the poor to the risk of experiencing great suffering from the want of punctual payment?—Exactly so.

11960. What remedy would you suggest for that state of things?—I would suggest that all local enactments which in any way relate to the relief or management of the poor, or the making or levying assessments, should be repealed.

11961. And

11961. And that the law in those places which are now under local Acts, as far as administration of relief to the poor is concerned, should be placed upon precisely the same footing as it is in those parts of the country where no local Act exists?—Precisely; that it should be on that footing.

11962. Mr. *Barneby.*] When the board of guardians require the payment of money from any parishes, do they make an order upon the overseers and the churchwardens of the parishes, or upon the collectors of those parishes?—Upon the churchwardens and overseers of those parishes.

11963. In the event of those churchwardens and overseers not complying with that order, is there not a power under the Poor Law Amendment Act in the magistrate to enforce a penalty?—Only against parties, as disobeying a lawful order of the board of guardians; we had occasion to apply to the magistrates last year, and obtained a conviction.

11964. And after that did the churchwardens and overseers pay the money which was demanded of them?—They did.

11965. The churchwardens and overseers have the power of collecting those rates, though there may be collectors appointed by the vestry or authorities constituted under the local Act?—Where there is a collector appointed under the local Act, the churchwardens and overseers, I think, have not the power of collecting; I have already stated the law, and the practice is to be this. Under the Poor Law Amendment Act: collectors' are appointed by the board of guardians; those collectors pay what they collect into the hands of the treasurer, but to the credit of the churchwardens and overseers of the respective parishes to which they belong; the churchwardens and overseers, or the majority of them, have the power of drawing checks upon the treasurer, to meet the demands made by the board of guardians, or by any other competent authority; but in one of our parishes this case has happened: as I have already stated to the Committee, there is a collector appointed under their own local Act; they still claim their right to continue that appointment, and they have issued placards and handbills advising the rate-payers not to pay to any but to their own local collector; their own local collector, instead of paying the rates which he collects into the hands of the treasurer of the union, to the credit of the churchwardens and overseers of the parish for which he collects, has paid them into the hands of the private banker of the parish; upon this private banker the churchwardens and overseers have no power to draw; the parties who claim to draw are the committee of management and body of trustees elected under their local Act; the consequence has been, that the churchwardens and overseers, however much disposed they might be to pay the demands made upon them by the board of guardians, have frequently not had enough in the hands of the treasurer to do so, and the committee of management have in some instances refused to sign checks upon the private banker of the parish for the deficiency; this is the evil of which I have been speaking as arising under the local Act.

11966. Then there is the power given under the local Act for the collector to enforce the payment of poor-rates?—There is.

11967. You are aware that there is not any power given by the Poor Law Amendment Act to enforce the payment of rates by the collector of the board of guardians?—There is not, expressly; but what he does he does in the name of the churchwardens and overseers.

11968. Is not this the practice: that if parties refuse the payment of rates to the collector, he must summon those parties in the name of the churchwardens and overseers before the magistrates, to enforce that payment, and that some of the churchwardens or overseers must attend, before the magistrates can make any order to enforce the payment of those rates?—That is the practice; but in some instances the local collector may have the power of being the complainant, and may prosecute the proceeding for the recovery of the rate from beginning to end, without the assistance of the churchwardens and overseers; under the Poor Law Amendment Act, that is not so.

11969. The latter part of your last answer refers to cases occurring under the local Act?—Precisely.

11970. Would it not, in your opinion, be desirable, if there should be any alteration in the Poor Law Amendment Act, to give the power to collectors to enforce the payment of the rate, without the intervention of the churchwardens or overseers?—Very desirable indeed; I am sure that it would tend to the pre-

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vention of large losses, and would ensure more completely the proper collection and recovery of the rates.

11971. Do I understand you correctly, that in some places where there are local Acts, the overseers and churchwardens have not the power to collect the poor-rates, and that collectors have been appointed under local Acts?—I know instances in which they have no such power, it being taken away under the local Act.

11972. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You are of opinion, that if the local Act is not repealed, there should be power to enforce payment from the committee of management, out of the parish funds, to the churchwardens, of such sums as the churchwardens are bound to disburse?—I think, if the local Acts are not repealed, the committee of management, or any other local body having a control over the poor-rate, ought to be bound to obey the orders of the board of guardians, the same as if they were churchwardens and overseers; and that they should be equally liable in law.

11973. So that, either through the churchwardens or directly in their own persons, the board of guardians should have the power to make an order which the local authority should be bound to obey?—I think so.

11974. *Chairman.*] Have you any other observations to make with respect to the inconveniences felt in London parishes by the clashing or collision of those local Acts with the Poor Law Amendment Act?—Not at present; I was not aware that my examination would lead to that; but I think that there are many suggestions that I might make; I am rather taken by surprise; I received no notice of my intended examination.

11975. Mr. *Barneby.*] Are you conversant with the mode in which orders of removal are now carried into effect in the neigbourhood of London?—I am.

11976. Have you found any difficulty in any way by its being necessary at present for the overseers or churchwardens to make an application to the magistrates previously to any order of removal being made; and if you have found such difficulty, do you think that it would be advisable to give the power to the relieving officer to make the application to the magistrates as well as to the overseers and churchwardens?—I think it would be very safe to give that power to the relieving officer, and I am not aware that the question has been raised; but the question I know has arisen how far a removal may be good which is made without the churchwardens and overseers being parties to it; nominally they are parties to it; the order of course recites in the usual way, that it is upon their complaint that the adjudication as to the settlement is made; but in practice, under the old law, as well as under the new, in large parishes churchwardens and overseers seldom took this duty upon them; under the old law, they generally committed it to vestry clerks, assistant overseers, or other stipendiary officers; under the new law, most commonly it is committed to the relieving officer, subject to the control and direction of the clerk to the union; but the relieving officer may be said to do it more in sufference than legally, and it seems very desirable that he should be made the legal complainant in such cases.

11977. Because, if the magistrates should be of opinion that it is necessary that the overseer or churchwarden should appear before them to make their complaint, under the present system of relief to the poor, the relieving officer would be the person who had given the relief, is it not necessary to have the attendance of that relieving officer, in order to prove that relief has been given to the person for whose removal an order is applied for?—The proof of the chargeability is generally contained in the pauper's own examination, who swears that he is actually chargeable to the parish from which they seek to remove him; but instances might occur in which the pauper would refuse to do that, and the best proof in such a case that the magistrates could have would be the relieving officer who has administered the relief.

11978. Is it necessary that the pauper should state that he is in the receipt of relief; are you aware of any power by which a magistrate could compel him to answer that question?—In his examination upon oath the magistrate might ask him whether he had received relief from the parish, and I think he would be bound to answer.

11979. Mr. *Freshfield.*] At present, upon applying for an order of removal, some delay may take place in consequence of no notice having been given to the officer of the parish to which the pauper is to be removed; do you think that it would be an improvement if it was necessary to give that notice in the first instance, so that that officer might make himself acquainted with the facts of the case?—I think it would often tend to save appeals, if the officer of the parish

to

to which the pauper was about to be removed had notice to attend before the magistrates; but that could not be always practised, because the pauper might be about to be removed to a very distant parish.

11980. If notice was given to the officer of the other parish, he might return for answer, that, having ascertained the facts, no objection would be made?—Precisely so, the same as we do in binding parish apprentices; we are bound by law to give the parish into which the apprentice is about to be bound, notice of application to be made for the allowance of the indenture, and it not unfrequently happens that we have an intimation given on the part of the parish in which the apprentice is about to be bound that they do not object; but sometimes they attend and object, and the objection is heard and decided upon by the magistrates.

11981. An ample notice being given, would it not remove frivolous objections, made merely for the purpose of gaining time?—I think it would, and it would tend to the prevention, frequently, of what we call mere clerical mistakes; sometimes the pauper is, by mistake, removed to the wrong parish; that is, the street in which he acquired his settlement, by servitude or otherwise, is situated within a different jurisdiction, but if notice were given to the parish, information might be given which would tend to the prevention of that mistake.

11982. Although benefit might not arise in every case, yet, in many cases, would it not turn out to be advantageous?—I think so; in fact, in Westminster, we have found the practice of being present at the examination of paupers very useful.

11983. And you would recommend that as a regulation, would you?—Certainly I should, as a very desirable one.

11984. Mr. *Barneby.*] Would there not be a difficulty if it were rendered necessary, before an order of removal was given, that notice should be sent to the parish; might not doubts arise, in cases in which the parish was not known to the overseers, as to the parish to which the pauper might belong, so that, in fact, if you made it necessary to send a notice to the overseer previously to that order being made, or the examination of the pauper, you might send a notice to the overseer of a parish in which the magistrate, upon inquiry, would not think the pauper legally settled?—At any rate, you would give notice to the parish to which you intended removing; and you would give that parish, at all events, an opportunity of attending and showing cause, if they could, why the pauper should not be removed to them.

11985. But surely, it is the decision of the magistrates which states to what parish the pauper belongs. In agricultural parishes, are not the overseers very often ignorant of the law of settlement, and not aware what parish the pauper may belong to till they shall have the decision of a magistrate upon the subject?—In rural districts, according to the present practice, that might arise; but, to prevent it, I would place the execution of orders of removal, the binding of parish apprentices, and, in fact, the transaction of all other parochial magisterial business, with reference to the administration of relief to the poor, in the hands of the board of guardians and their stipendiary officers; and then, I should presume that those officers would be competent so far to inquire into the settlement, and to ascertain its accuracy, as to justify notice being sent.

11986. Would you give power to the board of guardians to make an order of removal, taking it out of the hands of the magistrates?—That is a point that requires some consideration; elected guardians are not, generally speaking, versed in the law of settlement.

11987. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Even without that alteration, you must now address your evidence to a particular parish to which you believe you have a right to remove the pauper?—Yes, and you would send your notice to that parish.

11988. It might turn out that you were mistaken, and so now you are in some cases, in bringing forward your evidence, are you not?—Yes; an active magistrate of this county, Mr. Tidd Pratt, a gentleman of very good authority, I know, strongly recommends the practice of sending those notices, and it is a good deal acted upon in Westminster, where he, with Mr. Walesby and other *ex-officio* members of our board, hold weekly petty sessions.

11989. *Chairman.*] What is his practice?—His practice is, to give notice to the parish to which you intend removing, in order that the officer of that parish may convince you that your information is wrong, or that your settlement is not well founded, and thereby prevent the removal at all, or at once admit it, and save all further inconvenience; we have a practice in London among the unions, which is found to be a very beneficial one, and is now carried to a considera-

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ble extent, that of having what we call friendly orders, which is much the same thing; we send a letter to the parish in which the pauper appears to be settled, stating the grounds of the settlement, into which they inquire, and they will frequently accept the pauper without any order of removal being made.

11990. Do you find that that conduces to great convenience, and prevents litigation?—Yes; in our own union we have gone on for two years without one appeal, a union consisting of five London parishes and to which the parish of St. Anne, Westminster, has recently been added, making in the whole a population of nearly 50,000.

11991. You attribute this absence of litigation and the absence of appeals very much to the provisions of the new Poor Law, and to the management which you say you have adopted voluntarily in different boards of guardians?—Chiefly to both, to the operation of the new law and to the arrangements made in carrying that new law into effect.

11992. You have had great experience in the management of parish matters in the metropolis, both as vestry clerk, and subsequently as clerk to the board of guardians; the Committee will be very glad to receive your opinion as to whether you think the circumstances and condition of the poor have been improved or made worse under the administration of the new law as compared with what they were before?—There is nothing upon which I am more satisfied than this, that the aged and deserving poor are in a far better condition under the administration of the new law than they were under the old; as regards our own dietary, I am satisfied that it is more generous than it was under the old system; the monthly liberty of going out is greater than it was under the old system; we now give them the privilege of going out monthly; under the old system, they had the privilege only once in six weeks; tea and sugar, under the old system, were only allowed to very few inmates indeed; now they are allowed to all above the age of 60, and to all under 60, if employed in any domestic offices in the house; all above 60, likewise, are allowed butter as well as tea and sugar for breakfast, in lieu of gruel.

11993. In other respects, besides the dietary, in the general conduct and condition of those persons who are under the necessity of applying for parochial assistance, do you conceive that the new law has pressed severely upon them?—Not in any respect; the inmates of the house expressed themselves perfectly contented with the treatment they received at the expiration of the first year under the new law; many of the inmates of one of our workhouses voluntarily sent in a memorial to the board, expressing their gratitude for the treatment they had received; as regards classification, I think that it tends very much to promote the comfort of the poor; and in this way: I have known many of the aged and infirm inmates under the old system shocked and distressed at the refractory and disgraceful conduct of some of the able-bodied, whose conduct and language were extremely offensive to the better conducted class of inmates; under the present system of classification and discipline this cannot possibly take place.

11994. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do I understand you to say, that you still allow the inmates of the workhouse to go out on Mondays?—Yes.

11995. Have you any particular rules or regulations under which you give them that privilege?—Merely a resolution of the board; they are allowed in summer time to go out from nine in the morning until six in the evening; and in winter time from nine till four.

11996. Have you any rules to prevent the breach of this privilege?—The porter is bound to report to the board, in his weekly report, the state and manner in which the inmates return.

11997. Do you find that effectual in remedying any serious abuses of the privilege?—With many incorrigible inmates, I am sorry to say, not; I have known their liberty suspended for long periods more than once without its having the desired effect.

11998. Do those incorrigible inmates form a large proportion of the whole number?—I think not a large proportion.

11999. Is it not therefore perfectly clear, if you allow this indulgence on the Monday, by way of recreation, that the same indulgence should be allowed on the Sunday for the performance of religious duties?—My opinion, arising from practical experience, is opposed to the Monday liberty, though a majority of the board have granted it, because I think it is rendering the workhouse more desirable than it should be; and I think it tended, as soon as the rule was made,

to

to increase our numbers; but I certainly think, on principle, that the inmates are as much entitled to go to a place of worship on the Sunday as they are to take a walk for health and recreation on the Monday, or, in fact, more entitled; but this inconvenience would have resulted, to which I have already adverted, that if the privilege of going to their respective places of worship on the Sunday was given to catholics and others not members of the established church, the members of the established church would profess to be dissenters or catholics, and thereby be guilty of gross deception and hypocrisy. *James Corder, Esq.* 25 May 1838.

12000. Would it not be sufficient protection against this abuse, if a certificate was signed by a minister of a religious persuasion, stating that he knew the individual to belong to his community?—I think it would not; I think the certificate certainly ought to state that the minister knew, from his own observation, that the party was present, without which it would be no security whatever.

12001. Would it not be a sufficient security against a member of a different community pretending that he belonged to a dissenting place of worship, that the minister of that dissenting place of worship stated that he knew the individual to be of the religious persuasion which he professed?—I think that would tend to the prevention, or at least to the detection of those acts of deception which I alluded to.

12002. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Your objection to the same indulgence being given on the Sunday as on the Monday, would be to prevent the desecration of the day?—That would be one strong objection.

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12003. *Chairman.*] YOU have heard what Mr. Corder has stated, with respect to the inconvenience that has been felt in London, in consequence of the existence of certain local Acts; do you agree with him in the representation which he has made?—I entirely agree with every thing that Mr. Corder has said upon the subject; but there are other matters, even more important than those which Mr. Corder has touched upon. In the district appointed to me there are not less than 55 local Acts of Parliament; many of them have other functions than those of the relief of the poor; I will instance the parish of Bermondsey; the board of trustees under the local Act comprises somewhere about 80 individuals, and when that local Act was obtained, a representation was made by some respectable Quakers in the parish that it was extremely irksome to them, from their religious scruples, to be compelled to refuse the payment of the church-rate, and it was suggested, as they were about applying to Parliament for an improvement in the parochial management, whether they might not introduce a clause by which the support of the church might be paid out of the poor-rate, to relieve them from the difficulty of their goods being seized for the church-rate; and it was considered a good suggestion, and it was adopted, and at the time I took the averages upon the formation of that parish under the new arrangement, I think the expense for the support of the church, paid out of the poor-rate, amounted to something like 1,200 *l.* per annum, and the functions of the churchwardens being included in those of the poor-rates, the 80 trustees still continue to be elected and continue their other functions, although, perhaps, nine-tenths of the duties for which they were formed are transferred to the new board of guardians of 20 individuals. *Charles Mott*, Esq.

12004. Leaving those 80 trustees comparatively little to do?—Yes, with the exception that they call for such money as they require, out of the poor-rate, and do not account to the auditor.

12005. Are they not obliged under the local Act to give some account of the manner in which the money is expended?—Yes; but, like all other management under a local board, or under the old system, the modes of auditing are very bad and very difficult to bring to any proper conclusion.

12006. You think there is reason to apprehend, from an insufficient audit, that this money may not be properly accounted for?—I more immediately allude to the fact of there being two sets of officers, because, having had certain functions given them to perform, as well as those for the relief of the poor, they now continue the payment of salaried officers for the performance of a small portion of the duties; this applies to most local Act parishes.

12007. And you think that thereby an unnecessary expense is thrown upon the parish?—Yes.

 12008. Have

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12008. Have you ever observed any inconvenience, such as Mr. Corder referred to, from the money ordered by the board of guardians for the relief of the poor, not being punctually paid?—There are a great many instances of want of punctuality in the payment of calls, by the board of guardians; but with the exception of two or three instances, one of which Mr. Corder has alluded to, the Holborn Union, it has not arisen from any intention to refuse the payments, but from the difficulty of getting out of their old habit of making their rates retrospectively.

12009. Has any delay arisen in the collection of money for the relief of the poor?—There have been several instances lately of non-compliance with the orders; but that has arisen as much as any thing from the late Assessment Act, the parishes not having had their new assessment in time to make the rate; but the difficulty has been where the guardians have been obliged to borrow money, which has been the case in some instances, in consequence of their not being able to get the money in time from the churchwardens and overseers.

12010. Upon what security are the guardians able to borrow money?—Upon their own personal security only, because they have no means of paying interest; the auditor would be justified in striking out of the account any interest for money so borrowed.

12011. Then if the guardians had not taken this risk upon themselves, would not the poor have been exposed to very great inconvenience from want of money to be appropriated to their relief;—Unquestionably; and not only the poor, but the supplies would be necessarily obliged to be obtained at a much larger sum, because they would not be able to pay for them, but must obtain them upon credit; and it is notorious that parishes always paid a much larger price for their supplies when they obtained them upon credit.

12012. What is the remedy which you would suggest for this inconvenience?—I would suggest that, if the whole of the local Acts were not repealed, at all events, where the boards of guardians required it, they should be empowered to take upon themselves the whole of the local management.

12013. Do you mean in matters not connected with the relief of the poor?—I should say, entirely speaking of boards of guardians in the London separate parishes and in the London unions, for they are not large as to the number of parishes, though they are extensive in population, that where the boards of guardians themselves consider they could do it, there would be no difficulty in their arranging the whole.

12014. Many of those Acts are for paving, lighting, and so on; would you give the board of guardians jurisdiction in those matters?—I mean as to the payments out of the poor-rate.

12015. Do you mean to confine yourself to the powers given for the relief of the poor?—To all matters paid out of the poor-rate.

12016. Supposing under the local Act a part of the church-rate were paid out of the poor-rate, or the church-rate were altogether paid out of the poor-rate, would you recommend that the board of guardians should be invested with the power of making payments from the poor-rate, for the maintenance of the church?—At all events they should have the control of the money so appropriated, and they should know that it was expended properly; they should submit their accounts to the same auditor.

12017. Do you mean that all money collected under the poor-rate should be subject to the audit of the auditor appointed by the board of guardians?—Under the control of the board of guardians.

12018. Are there any other inconveniences, which you have observed, resulting from those local Acts?—One inconvenience resulting from the local Acts, is the party feeling that is exhibited; I should say, that the vast majority of the parishioners would rather that they were placed under the board of guardians as newly constituted.

12019. Supposing that you were not to repeal the local Acts altogether, but were to transfer to the board all matters connected with the poor-rate, would there not remain a very small amount of functions to be performed by the bodies constituted under the local Acts?—So small, that, unless they were repealed, the difficulty would still exist to a certain extent, as in the case of Shoreditch; there are 120 trustees, and the only duties connected with that local board, with the exception of relief to the poor, is the church-yard, so that they would have 120 trustees

trustees to keep the churchyard in repair, although the control of the parish in other respects would be in a board of 20.

12020. In the event of the board having the control in that case of all the money raised by the poor-rate, to whom would you give the control over the churchyard; might it not be given to the churchwardens?—Decidedly, I should say that they would be more proper persons.

12021. You have paid a good deal of attention to the dietary of workhouses, have you not?—I have.

12022. Have you had long experience in that matter?—I should say very extensive experience.

12023. Have you observed any thing in the dietary which interferes with the health of the inmates of the workhouse?—I am not aware that in any one instance the dietary established by the Poor Law Commissioners has been found insufficient for the maintenance of health.

12024. The Poor Law Commissioners published a number of dietaries, did they not, which they recommended to the adoption of the boards of guardians, at the same time qualifying that recommendation by saying that they were willing to listen to any representation of an alteration which might make them more conformable to the habits of living of the district where they were established?—Decidedly, and I think with respect to the dietary that was complained of as being excessively low, from Cirencester, the Commissioners for some time hesitated to give a sanction to it, because it was considered too low.

12025. In point of fact, have you observed that the board of guardians have been disposed to make alterations in the dietaries, according to the habits of living in the different districts?—Yes, and the Commissioners have invariably sanctioned it; I may be allowed to state that the dietary for the parish of Gosport, in Hampshire, was far less in quantity than any dietary that has been established under the Poor Law Commissioners, and there was no complaint of that; it was long before the new law.

12026. Have you ever considered the propriety of dividing your town parishes into wards, for the purpose of electing guardians?—I have; and I think (I am speaking now more particularly of metropolitan districts) that it would be utterly impossible to obtain a fair representation without some arrangement of that kind.

12027. What are the inconveniences felt by the present mode of election?—I will allude now to the parish of Lambeth; Lambeth comprises five different ecclesiastical districts, Norwood, Brixton, Kennington, Waterloo, and the Mother-church; the workhouse is situated in the district in which the Mother-church is, and it has been customary for nearly the whole of the guardians to be elected from that immediate neighbourhood; the consequence is, that the other parts of the parish may be said to be virtually unrepresented.

12028. What is there to prevent the other parts of the parish from concurring in the election of guardians?—Because, being at such a distance, they are scarcely ever consulted; the lists are made out by those parties who make themselves more active in these matters, and are submitted to the other rate-payers without, practically, any sort of power on their parts to interfere.

12029. Is there any thing which should prevent the rate-payers from voting for whom they please, or making any alteration in the lists?—No; but if the Commissioners had power of stating certain districts should send guardians, each part of the parish would be represented; they might send two from Norwood district, and two from Brixton district, and so in proportion; I will instance the city of London, as showing the necessity of some alteration of that kind; there are 98 parishes in the city of London having 100 elected guardians, and the population is not half that of the parish of Lambeth, where the business of the parish is managed by about 20.

12030. What is the practice in Lambeth as to the election of guardians; are lists made out by certain parties?—Lists are made out by certain parties, and distributed, for the rate-payers to make their elections from; but in a district of that description, there has been a considerable party feeling exhibited, which has prevented the exercise of that discretion.

12031. Do you think that the dividing a district of that description into wards, and allowing each ward to elect a certain number of guardians, would have the effect of depriving any particular party of the power of making an absolute selection, and tend to give a fairer representation of the feelings of the whole parish?—I do,

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—I do, decidedly, and I am sure that it would give the greatest satisfaction. This applies to the parish of Lambeth in particular, and to its great extent, being above 30 miles in circumference. In the City of London Union the objection is not to the extent of the union, but to the number of guardians, there being 100 elected guardians besides the resident aldermen; it would be utterly impossible that the business of the union could be properly arranged, if it were not for the business-like habits of the chairman, and guardians generally.

12032. In the case of London, you would not wish to divide one particular parish into several wards, in order to obtain a fair representation, but to consolidate several parishes, in order that they might elect one guardian?—Yes; and the necessity for it is shown by this, that there are several different parishes in the City of London Union, where the inhabitants are under 200 in each parish, and there are, also, about the same number of parishes where the inhabitants are from 1,000 to 2,000, but, notwithstanding the difference in the amount of population, they each of them are represented by one guardian, so that a parish of 2,000 in population, has but one guardian.

12033. The Commissioners, as the law now stands, have no power of consolidating several parishes into one, for the purpose of electing a guardian?—No, they have not. Perhaps the Committee will allow me to allude to another point which has created considerable difficulty; I mean the Commissioners not having the power of altering the number of guardians. I will state one instance; the parish of Aldersgate, in the East London Union; one section of that parish, called Glasshouse-yard, is in the county of Middlesex, and the population is taken separately. The Commissioners have generally apportioned the number of guardians to the population, and the population of Glasshouse-yard Liberty, amounting to 1,300, not being included in the returns for London, it escaped notice, and the parish of Aldersgate is therefore deprived of its due proportion of guardians; applications have been made for another guardian to that parish, and the Commissioners are desirous that another guardian should be appointed, but they cannot order the election of another guardian, without obtaining the consent of the majority of the owners and rate-payers of the whole union.

12034. Would not this also arise, that the comparative population of different parishes comprised in the union may in the course of years change, that some parishes may be stationary, or even retrograde, and others may advance very rapidly in amount of population, and, in common fairness, a different distribution of the number of guardians would become necessary?—Exactly.

12035. But in that case there would be no power in the Commissioners to alter the number of guardians?—There is no power in them as far as regards altering the number of guardians; I would beg to submit also that there is a doubt whether proxies can be required to be given annually; in fact, I believe the Commissioners have no power. In the parish of Lambeth, at the late election, much inconvenience was found to arise, in fact, some little jobbing, from persons holding proxies for a length of time.

12036. Do you think that it would be desirable to do away with the power of voting by proxy?—I am afraid my experience would show that very little good has resulted from it; in fact, in the parish of Lambeth there is quite a contrary result; but I merely wished to allude to the fact of proxies having been obtained and hoarded up until a certain party found they had sufficient strength to make use of them.

12037. Supposing the proxies were employed, would you propose that they should be necessarily given every year?—Yes.

12038. Do you see any objection to the abolition of the practice of voting by proxy?—That is a question of considerable importance. I am afraid that the experience of the London district would be that it is not a sound principle.

12039. That no great advantage has resulted from it?—No great advantage has resulted from it at present.

12040. Do you wish to make any other observations with respect to voting by proxy?—I would suggest whether the privilege of proxies might be confined to direct agents of parties, because the proxies that I am alluding to have been given to certain parties, and transferred by them to other parties.

12041. Would you recommend that no one should be allowed to give a proxy vote, except the agent immediately commissioned by the owner of the property entitled to give the vote?—I think that would check it.

12042. You mean that the practice is for the agent to part with the proxy, and

and to give it to parties not connected with the property?—I am sure that some of the proxies have been obtained and produced at the board by persons quite distinct from the persons to whom they were entrusted.

12043. Was not that the fault of the agent to whom the proxy had been originally given?—There is no question of it; that they have made a use of it that was not intended.

12044. Have you any other observations to make?—With respect to the constitution of the board of guardians of the London districts, I would suggest whether the number of *ex-officio* guardians might not be limited. There is a union in my district, the Edmonton Union, where there are 25 *ex-officio* guardians; that necessarily compels the Commissioners to give a larger number of elected guardians. I should be extremely cautious how I make the proposition, because I am aware that the *ex-officio* guardians are, in the rural districts, the main support of the system.

12045. There are 25 magistrates residing within the Union of Edmonton?—Yes; it comprises parts of three different counties; there is one parish from Essex, one from Hertfordshire, and the remainder are Middlesex parishes. Now, the number of guardians who are elected, necessarily being large, I think 38, with the 25, make an amount which is almost uncontrollable.

12046. You mean that the board is too numerous for good management?—It is, for this reason: we all know in board managements it is not the largest board that transacts the business best, and I find that at the Edmonton board of guardians some 15 or 16 do the main business of the union; but upon any particular occasion the whole of them attend, and perhaps thwart the views of 15 or 16 of the practical guardians who have paid the greatest attention to the matter; the *ex-officio* guardians in the rural districts are connected by large landed property with the country, and therefore ought to have that influence which the law gives them; but many of the *ex-officio* guardians near London are only connected to the extent of the rent of their house, and consequently it does give an undue influence, and, I know on the part of many guardians, has created great dissatisfaction; I have thought of suggesting whether the number of *ex-officio* guardians might be limited, and that they should be the senior magistrates of the district.

THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
25 *May* 1838.

THIRTY-SEVENTH, THIRTY-EIGHTH, AND THIRTY-NINTH

REPORTS

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
1 *June* 1838.

[*Price* 9*d.*]

*** *These Reports have been printed and circulated a Second time, on account of a mistake which occurred in the Appendices to the former Reports, and which stand corrected here.*

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

1 *June* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Mercurii, 30° die Maii, 1838.

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Jovis, 31° die Maii, 1838.

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Veneris, 1° die Junii, 1838.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 30° *die Maii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Langdale.
Mr. Freshfield.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

George Pearse, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

George Pearse, Esq.

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12047. Mr. *Fielden.*] ARE you prepared with your tabular statements of the earnings of any number of labourers in Westoning?—I have prepared these tables, and revised them, as to the earnings and outgoings of the people of Westoning, with the able assistance of Mr. Marshall, and I am now ready to present them; the table with regard to the 48 men who were irregularly employed in 1834 and 1837, and the table of 30 men who were regularly employed in 1834 and 1837.—[*See* Appendices, Nos. 1 & 2.]

12048. Have you any observations which you wish to make on them before putting them in?—Only that they have been prepared with the greatest care which I could possibly take in the business, endeavouring to ascertain the truth in the best way I could. The names are alphabetically arranged in those tables, which I thought might afford a facility of reference. I would first explain the way in which I have obtained my information: it was by application to the employers as to the period of service, amount of wages paid, and the names of people employed belonging to Westoning; and, in the majority of instances, from the men, as to their own earnings, and sometimes as to their wives' and children's. Except in a few instances in the early part of the inquiry, I found it almost impossible to ascertain the earnings of the family; I have therefore applied a scale which I consider is very moderate indeed as to the earnings of the families, depressing the good workers, and not raising the bad ones.

12049. *Chairman.*] Is that a scale with reference to the earnings they obtain by plaiting straw?—The scale I have drawn out was submitted to a person perfectly competent to judge of the accuracy of it; it was to a woman who is well acquainted with the earnings of children, who has children herself, and she said it was a very moderate fair scale; and it is below what I know others would have set it at.

12050. What is the scale?—It is not in every case applied; but only where I had a difficulty in finding the earnings of the family.

12051. Where you obtained information which you could rely upon, you put down the earnings of the family as they were stated to you?—Yes, if it approached the truth.

12052. But in cases where you could not obtain accurate information of the earnings of the family, you have estimated them according to the scale?—Yes; but in every instance in which the scale has been applied, I have deducted one-twelfth in the year, to allow either for sickness or other contingencies.

12053. Mr. *Baines.*] You applied this scale where it was known that the children were employed, to ascertain what they could earn during the period they were employed?—Precisely so.

12054. But how did you ascertain the time that they were employed; for instance, you went to a family, and you made inquiry as to the employment that their children had; did you then receive from that family information how long they

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they had been employed in any given period?—I beg your pardon; I declined the visitation of the cottages, for the reasons which I gave when I was here before, and it was then understood that I was to pursue my inquiries about the men only as to their earnings; I declined making inquiries as to the family earnings, from the difficulties I met with.

12055. What the Committee would wish to understand is, how you ascertained the period of time for which those children were employed, so as to apply that scale?—The woman that I submitted the scale to is perfectly competent to speak on the subject; I stated to her the time on which those earnings would be taken, as the children would work from eight in the morning till six in the evening, and allowing one hour for dinner, that is nine hours in the summer, taking that as an average.

12056. We will take an individual family in which two children are in a situation to have this employment of plaiting straw; did you know that those children were employed?—Yes; in every case I ascertained that plaiting was the business of the family.

12057. But did you ascertain that the children were employed in plaiting; because it might happen that there were two children in a family, and that those children, from some cause, were not employed at all?—That does not occur; they are all brought up to the same employment, almost invariably; there may be two or three lace-makers in the parish, and they are distinguished from the others.

12058. Mr. *Hodges.*] Are the families that are employed at plaiting furnished with straw from the capitalist?—No, not in every case, it depends upon the sort of plait; if they are making the variegated plait or the bent plait, I believe the straws are supplied by the plaiter.

12059. How, in all other cases, do those poor people furnish themselves with the material for the work?—It is brought round by people who draw straws, and it is sold to them sometimes in prepared bundles, and sometimes in the rough, and it is the business of the mother to prepare the straws for the children; the women who do not plait themselves, can prepare the straws.

12060. Then it is brought round the country by persons who draw the straws, and sold to the poor people?—Sometimes in one way, and sometimes in the other; sometimes they obtain it at their own doors, or at the market where they dispose of their plait.

12061. Are the circumstances of those people such as to insure either the sale or the loan of materials for the plait?—I do not doubt it.

12062. Mr. *Baines.*] Might it not frequently happen that a child or children in a family were ill; have you made any provision for that?—I have deducted a twelfth in the year.

12063. That is as a provision for those sort of contingencies?—To meet such contingencies.

12064. Does it happen that families can at all times have this employment?—At all times; and there is always a facility in disposing of it; it is a ready sale, but the market fluctuates; the price varies according to the season.

12065. Then, supposing there to be a family of any number of children, and those children to be of an age in which they can be so employed, you find that it is the practice of that district in which you have made the inquiry, that they do employ themselves statedly in that kind of work?—Decidedly; it is the practice with all children, even at the early age of four, when they go to dame schools, to commence plaiting; and I could give an instance of a child of my own bailiff who made its own bonnet at the age of four; it was its first act; I do not mean that they earn any thing then, because, perhaps, they spoil straws which are equal to their earnings and the expense of their schooling.

12066. At what time have you supposed the children can be so employed?—At the age of eight years, carrying the calculation up to the age of 16, and at that age, perhaps, they can earn as much as at a more advanced age.

12067. *Chairman.*] Will you give the scale upon which your calculations are formed?—Presuming that there is a deduction of one-twelfth, this is the scale; I now give it without the deduction, but I believe, in almost every instance, the deduction was made; and in putting in those tables I should say I do not assume that they are perfect, but they are drawn out to the best of my ability. A child of eight years, straws and schooling deducted, may earn 9*d.* a week; a child of nine years, 1*s.*; a child of ten, 1*s.* 6*d.*; a child of eleven, 1*s.* 9*d.*; twelve and thirteen, 2*s.*; fourteen years, 2*s.* 6*d.*; fifteen years, 3*s.*; sixteen years and upwards,

upwards, 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. Now I know that good plaiters may earn almost double this at the age of 16, and that they are earning as much as double; but I have taken it at 3*s.* 6*d.* There is an observation at the bottom, "This scale of earnings applies to children of various ages, one-twelfth being deducted from the year's earnings to cover any deduction for sickness or other prevention of work."

12068. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you mean that one-twelfth has been deducted there, or that one-twelfth is to be deducted?—One-twelfth is to be deducted when the scale is applied to the earnings; I wish to set myself right with respect to the tables; I disclaimed the trouble of making the calculations, and Mr. Marshall was to assist me in that, therefore I am not responsible for the calculations, but for the inquiries; I lay the best information I can before the Committee, and I hope unimpeachable.

12069. Mr. *Fielden.*] That is the scale which you have given in as an estimate of what they can earn at those different ages, in straw-plaiting?—It is the scale that I have applied; I mean to say, that they may earn a great deal more, but it is the scale which I have applied.

12070. Have you any doubt that the children can, at this description of work, earn the sums regularly which you have put down for them?—Taking the average of the past year, I should say they certainly can, and that it is rather below the mark.

12071. Instead of earning less, you are of opinion that they can earn more than the scale which you have adopted?—More, decidedly, with due exertion.

12072. You did not take this statement of earnings from those employed on the plaiting themselves, but from an experienced woman?—I took it from an experienced woman having children of her own; a woman upon whom I thought I could rely.

12073. Who is the woman from whom you obtained this information?—She lives in the parish of Harlington, and her name is Chandler.

12074. How many children has she employed in straw-plaiting?—I believe she has two, but she interests herself about the children of a widower living near, who has several children, I believe, employed in that way.

12075. She has two children of her own engaged in straw-plaiting?—They belong, I believe, to her husband; she is their mother-in-law.

12076. And those are employed in straw-plaiting?—Yes.

12077. What are the ages of those two children?—I cannot say; but there are several children living close to her about whom she is interested, and she is, of course, aware of their earnings.

12078. Have you seen the two children of this Mrs. Chandler?—I do not know those children, though she is a tenant of mine.

12079. Did you not ask her what her own two children could earn?—Yes, I did, but I do not think I made a memorandum of what they could earn; but I made the scale, and showed it to her, and had it corrected by her; I said, "I am very anxious to submit a moderate scale, and you will correct me where I have it too high;" I had it originally higher than it now is; I said I would rather be below the mark.

12080. You were desirous of adopting a scale rather under the mark than over the mark?—Certainly.

12081. And the information you received from this female corroborates what you now say?—Yes; it is a much lower scale than the scale I have put in of the earnings at our own workhouse at Woburn.

12082. Did Mrs. Chandler state to you how she had derived her information?—She plaits herself,—and from observation; she is in the habit of selling children's plait, a great quantity.

12083. But it is possible that a person may be in the habit of selling plait, and yet not know what the earnings of children amount to?—I have not a doubt of her experience.

12084. She has other children besides her own whom she superintends?—I believe she has.

12085. Do you know how many she superintends?—I cannot say; she is not a schoolmistress, but she looks after a neighbour's children who has lately lost his wife.

12086. I am not doubting the respectability of the woman, but I wish to know whether you can give information to the Committee as to the data on which this is founded; she must be aware of the quantity of work that a straw-plaiter can

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do, and the prices that are obtained for that, in order to give you correct testimony?—Yes.

12087. What description of straw-plaiting was she speaking of when she gave you this estimate?—I do not know the particular description, but I should think the ordinary description done by children.

12088. Are there not several kinds of straw-plait made in the township in which you reside?—Yes, but the more expensive sorts are only made by experienced hands.

12089. What sort of straw-plaiting is it that you wish the scale that you have put in to apply to?—I hardly know how to distinguish the sorts, but I think it would be known under the name of the white straw-plait; I say that under correction.

12090. There are four sorts of straw-plait; at the lowest description of plaiting one sum can be earned a week, at the next a higher sum, at the third a still higher sum, and at the fourth, a higher sum than either?—Then I should say, that I believe the scale to apply to the inferior sort of plait, the white straw-plait, the ordinary sort of plait produced by children.

12091. Did you make this inquiry of Mrs. Chandler, whether it was intended to apply to the inferior straw-plaiting, or to the superior?—Certainly, that it was to apply to the ordinary straw-plait, made by children, and I should certainly infer that it is what is understood by the white straw-plait; if you were to go to a higher straw-plait, you must put down the earnings as almost double; children are not put to that description.

12092. Did you ask Mrs. Chandler what young persons, of those ages, could earn at the higher descriptions of straw-plaiting?—No.

12093. Is she not conversant with the higher description of plaiting, as well as the lower?—I do not know that she is.

12094. Have you endeavoured to obtain from any other persons what they can obtain at the higher descriptions of plaiting?—No, I have not, not with a view to any scale.

12095. What proportion does the inferior straw-plaiting bear, in the number employed, to the superior straw-plaiting?—I cannot take upon myself to say.

12096. Mr. *Baines.*] Is not that the kind of straw-plaiting upon which children are usually employed?—Yes, it is.

12097. *Chairman.*] It is the ordinary occupation of children, of the ages you have mentioned, in that district?—Yes; I do not mean to say that some children that are taught do not attempt a better description of plait.

12098. But, speaking generally, this is the usual occupation in which children in that district are engaged?—Yes.

12099. And the woman, Chandler, was speaking of the occupation of the children at the ordinary sort of plait?—Yes.

12100. Mr. *Fielden.*] On a former day you put in a table, purporting to be the earnings of children of various ages employed in straw-plait, nine hours in the summer, from eight to six o'clock, less one hour for dinner?—That is a statement which I obtained from the master of the Woburn workhouse.

12101. In that table you state that the net earnings of children of eight years of age would be 1*s.* 3*d.*; in the scale which you have now put in you state that children of eight years would earn 9*d.*?—Yes, and I hope that that will mark my anxiety to do the right thing as regards those tables, that I might put it upon as low a scale as possible, because I was taking the average.

12102. Children of 10, in Appendix No. 3, to 30th Report, you state, can earn 2*s.* 9*d.*; with respect to children of 10, in the scale you now propose to put in, you give the sum, 1*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes, there is that variation.

12103. The children of 15, in Appendix No. 3, are said to earn 4*s.*; in the scale you are now introducing, you say 3*s.* is the sum?—Yes.

12104. How do you reconcile those two statements?—That which I before put in is an estimate of the value of plait produced by the children in the Woburn workhouse, presuming that they were kept at it so many hours, as stated, but they are taken off three or four hours in the day to be instructed in other things; that was an estimate made by the master; and the children are exceedingly well taught; there we have a schoolmistress for the purpose of teaching them to plait, and they are taught in a superior way, and their plait produces higher prices than I imagine the run of children generally would; the master last Monday reported to me that with one girl of 14, the value of her plait was 7*s.* a week.

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12105. Do you wish to rest your evidence upon the earnings given in of the Woburn workhouse, or of Mrs. Chandler, from whom you made out this scale?—That which appears in the Appendix was an estimate of what the children in the Woburn workhouse might do if they were kept at their work; this is a scale applied to the earnings of families in Westoning, with an anxiety to do justice to that which had been entrusted to me by the Committee.

12106. *Chairman.*] And upon the supposition that the children taught in their own houses, and taking the average of many families, might not be so well taught as the children under the superintendence of the master or mistress of the Woburn house, and might not be kept at work for so many hours?—Allowing for the disadvantages under which the labouring poor might be; there would not be the same superintendence of their labour; they would not be taught in the same way that they are in our workhouse.

12107. Mr. *Fielden.*] You are the chairman of the board of guardians of the Woburn Union?—I am.

12108. Have you been so from the commencement of that union?—I have.

12109. Do not you think that the knowledge obtained from the workhouse is as creditable and as much to be relied on as the knowledge which you have obtained from this individual?—The advantages there are so superior for children that I did not think it fair or just to the Committee to apply that scale to the earnings in Westoning, under the circumstances in which this inquiry was entrusted to me.

12110. Have not the independent labourers in Westoning, or in any of the other parishes, as deep an interest in getting as large an amount of earnings from the children as you can have in the Woburn workhouse?—Of course they have; but you must allow for the mistaken indulgence of the mother, and the want of discipline at home.

12111. But straw-plaiting is an exceedingly easy work, is it not?—Not so easy to some children.

12112. *Chairman.*] Do you mean, not easy in the sense of fatigue, or in the sense of difficult?—I mean that all have not the same facility; one child will earn twice as much as another.

12113. Is it a laborious occupation?—Certainly not; they may sit or walk while they are at it.

12114. Is it an occupation that tries the strength of the children?—A particular kind of plait would try the strength of the fingers.

12115. But is the ordinary plait, at which children are generally employed, an occupation that tries their strength?—I imagine not.

12116. When you speak therefore of the work not being in all cases an easy work, do you mean from the want of dexterity?—Exactly.

12117. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is the straw-plaiting, of which you have given in an estimate of the earnings of children in the Woburn workhouse, the common straw-plaiting, the same as the straw-plaiting spoken to by Mrs. Chandler?—I believe it is.

12118. Then the two descriptions of work are the same in quality?—I believe so.

12119. And the same earnings might be obtained by the same children in both cases?—Provided they were equally well taught, and equally well kept at it.

12120. The time that the children are employed in both cases is only from eight o'clock to six o'clock, and one hour allowed out of that time for dinner?—The calculation is founded upon that.

12121. From eight to six is 10 hours, and one hour taken off for dinner would only require nine hours' employment?—Yes.

12122. If the work be not laborious, but easy, do you consider that to be sufficient employment for children?—I believe they are the school hours.

12123. Is it not the practice to give the children employment at the school during the time they are there?—I suppose so.

12124. Is it not the practice for the mothers who have children to keep their children employed?—They have an interest in doing so; I cannot say what is done by mothers.

12125. Could an experienced female, acquainted with straw-plaiting, speak with more accuracy to the earnings of straw-plaiters on this description of work than

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than you can?—Of course; I only wish the Committee had the evidence of some such person.

12126. *Chairman.*] But you derived your information from an experienced person?—From one whom I thought I could rely upon.

12127. It is not your own opinion, but information derived from the experience of another?—It is; I could not be supposed to know any thing of this question myself.

12128. Mr. *Fielden.*] On that scale your tables are founded for both 1834 and 1837?—No, I have not gone into 1834, and I said distinctly to the Committee that I would not apply myself to 1834; I declined it from the first.

12129. Do your tables apply only to 1837?—So far as the earnings and the outgoings go, we have adopted Mr. Turner's estimate as to 1834; I have merely taken that as I found it.

12130. Why adopt Mr. Turner's estimate for 1834, and reject it for 1837?—I have nothing to do with it, it may be struck out; the object was to furnish information.

12131. *Chairman.*] Is not the reason why you have adopted Mr. Turner's table in 1834, and not in 1837, that you undertook to make inquiries with regard to 1837, and you did not undertake to make inquiries with regard to 1834?—Exactly, that stands where it did; I might, for all I know, impeach the accuracy of the table for 1834 as well as that of 1837.

12132. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have before stated that if the earnings of 1837 were too low, they would be too low for 1834?—Of course it would be so; I merely meant that, with regard to 1834, there were no data upon which to make a calculation.

12133. *Chairman.*] Was there a material difference in the price of straw-plaiting between 1834 and 1837?—I understand there was some difference; at the present season, there is an improvement as compared with 1834; straw-plait is selling higher than it has done for some time.

12134. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know whether the earnings at straw-plaiting may be greater now than they would be in the year 1834?—I understand that the straw-plaiting at the present moment is better; but my inquiries have been confined entirely to 1837, and this scale is to apply to 1837, and not to the present time.

12135. *Chairman.*] In 1837 was there any material difference between the prices then and the prices in 1834?—I am not prepared to speak to that; I have nothing to do with 1834.

12136. Mr. *Fielden.*] Within your experience has the price for straw-plaiting been considerably higher than it is now?—I know nothing upon that myself; but I have heard that some years ago straw-plaiting, when it was less generally followed in the country, produced a great deal more.

12137. Do you know when the decline in the prices paid for straw-plaiting first commenced?—I cannot speak to that.

12138. You cannot give any guess as to the time?—I would rather not commit myself in any way upon that subject; the most accurate information upon that point may be obtained from factors and others.

12139. But it is your opinion that there has been a considerable fall at some time or other?—Yes.

12140. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you know whether it was ever lower than it has been in the last two years?—Yes, I believe so.

12141. Was it ever lower than it was in 1837?—I have understood so.

12142. But of your own knowledge you cannot speak?—I cannot.

12143. Mr. *Baines.*] You say you adopt Mr. Turner's scale of 1834; do you mean that you acquiesce in his statement, or that you have not investigated it at all?—I have not investigated it; I merely took it as I found it.

12144. You therefore do not confirm or wish to impeach it, but you take it as you find it?—Exactly, inasmuch as it appears in this table; I have so far adopted it, or rather used it.

12145. *Chairman.*] What is the first name in your table?—I must entreat a little indulgence with regard to the table of 30 labourers; I wish for a little time for further examination; the person who was appointed to assist me in the preparation of it was occupied up to a very late hour last night in completing it, and I had not an opportunity of looking over it again; the table of 48 labourers I am prepared

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prepared with; but as Mr. Marshall has drawn out the table, perhaps the Committee would allow him to refer to it in answer to the questions.

12146. (To Mr. *Marshall.*) Take the name of Joseph Lingard; in speaking of the year 1837, he is stated to have been employed 39 weeks?—The number of weeks is unknown.

12147. His rate of wages is said to be 8*s.*?—That is also unknown; there is a remark here, that the statement of this man is very unsatisfactory; he works much out of the parish, and cannot be readily traced.

12148. His earnings are stated to be 15*l.* 12*s.*; but as you do not know the further particulars, you cannot speak to his earnings?—His earnings here are taken from his own statement, 14*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* and 5*l.* 5*s.* during harvest.

12149. Here the allowance for harvest is 2*l.*?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) We have separated the hay-time and harvest, and put that independently of the number of weeks employed.

12150. Then you must deduct the usual number of weeks in which they are employed in hay-time and harvest?—We have taken the number of weeks employed in hay-time and harvest separately, except in cases where the harvest, the hay-time and the ordinary work were blended together.

12151. Upon what ground do you state that the earnings of the man during harvest were 5*l.* 5*s.*?—His own statement; harvest four weeks 3*l.* 12*s.*; hay-time, three weeks, at 11*s.* a week.

12152. Was the statement with regard to the man's earnings in harvest and hay-time taken from the man himself?—From the man himself.

12153. What do you make the earnings of his wife and children?—By the scale, 11*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*

12154. What does his family consist of?—It consists of a daughter, 12 years old, a boy eight and a girl four.

12155. The statement in the table that was formerly put in makes those earnings to be 2*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make the total income of the family?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Thirty pounds nineteen shillings.

12156. What do you make the outgoings for rent, fuel and rates?—Five pounds six shillings.

12157. Is the subscription to the benefit club stated correctly at 15*s.*?—Twelve shillings; there is 3*d.* spent in beer; that cannot be called a subscription to the club.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) In every case where there was 3*d.* for beer, I have thrown it off.

12158. What do you make his net income applicable for food, clothing, &c.?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Twenty-five pounds thirteen shillings.

12159. Is the number of the family stated correctly at five?—It is.

12160. What is the average per head for the year?—That I have not entered into; the only reference to 1834 is by way of drawing a comparison; he is stated to have had 21*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* in 1834; and this is to show an increase or decrease; in this instance it shows an increase of 4*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* as compared with 1834, assuming 1834 to be correct.

12161. Mr. *Baines.*] What is the whole amount of his year's income as stated by Mr. Turner, and what is the whole amount of the year's income as stated in this corrected list?—Mr. Turner states it to be 20*l.* 4*s.* and I have it 30*l.* 19*s.*

12162. The net income is stated to be 14*l.* 15*s.*; what do you state their net income to be?—Twenty-five pounds thirteen shillings.

12163. Have you the name John Carter?—I have.

12164. He is stated to be employed the whole year at 9*s.*?—John Carter is 45 weeks employed at 9*s.* 6*d.*; amounting to 21*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; his earnings during hay-time and harvest are 5*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*; the earnings of the family, 4*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*; total income, 31*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*; his outlay is 6*l.* 5*s.*; his net income 25*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

12165. *Chairman.* (To Mr. *Pearse.*)] Upon what ground have you formed the estimate with respect to John Carter?—By applying the scale as to the earnings of the family, and taking the report of his employer as to his own earnings.

12166. The total income appears in the list given in by Mr. Turner to be 25*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Thirty-one pounds thirteen shillings and sixpence.

12167. The net income appears to be 18*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-five pounds eight shillings and sixpence.

12168. Mr. *Langdale.*] The wages that he gains by harvest are completely independent

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independent of so much per week; it is not an accumulation of so much per week?—Not at all.

12169. *Chairman.*] You assume that the man was employed throughout the whole year?—Yes; so he was, but he was seven weeks at hay-time and harvest. ——(Mr. *Pearse.*) With reference to Carter's case, I beg to correct myself; the scale was applied to the boy, and we took the woman's acknowledgment as to her own earnings, which was 1*s.* a week.

12170. The number of persons of the family here is stated to be five?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Four is the number.

12171. Has he only two children?—That is all.

12172. Jacob Bonner is the next name. What do you state with regard to him?—Forty weeks at the railroad, 28*l.* 10*s.*, and six weeks at Mr. Olney's, 3*l.* 3*s.*; total 31*l.* 13*s.*; the earnings of the family, 9*l.* 2*s.*; his total income, 40*l.* 15*s.*; outlay 8*l.* 2*s.*; that leaves a net income of 32*l.* 13*s.*

12173. The total income here is stated to be 35*l.* 6*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty pounds fifteen shillings.

12174. The net income is stated to be 27*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-two pounds thirteen shillings; and the number of his family eight.

12175. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) With regard to Jacob Bonner, upon what grounds was the statement made with respect to his earnings and those of his family?—Jacob Bonner gave me a statement himself with respect to his own earnings, and that was confirmed by his employers, in part, and I rather think I took the statement. I am not confident whether I applied the scale in this case, or whether I took the statement of the mother, I cannot say positively; I rather think I took the statement from the mother, because the children were brought up to lace-making, and within the last two years were put to plaiting.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) It was the statement of the woman herself. I find that from having been present; it was one of those in which I accompanied Mr. Pearse; and I remember having gone there and the woman having made the statement, and I see the amount is as she stated.

12176. Mr. *Fielden.*] You had this information from Bonner himself, from his employer and from Bonner's wife?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) Yes.

12177. *Chairman.*] The next case is Joseph Chew?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) As regards Joseph Chew, it has been found impossible to get at his earnings, and therefore I put it down, as Mr. Turner put it down, by way of comparison.

12178. (To Mr. *Turner.*) Have you any memorandum with reference to Joseph Chew?—I find that he is 25 years of age, and that he was out of work for four months during the last year; from the statement he makes to me he was working at 8*s.* a week.

12179. You state him to have been 28 weeks at work, at 10*s.* a week, and that gives 14*l.*?—That is when he was on the railroad; that is correct.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) Then assuming that to be correct, we find the earnings of his wife to be 7*l.* 16*s.*

12180. What do you find to be his earnings at hay-time and harvest?—I cannot state them.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) He is a man of weak mind, and gives a poor account of himself.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) He is the son of a carpenter and wheelright, and works often with his father, and he is also a plaiter, therefore if he is unoccupied at agriculture, the probability is that he is employed in other things. I found it impossible to get at his earnings.

12181. What do you make the earnings of his wife and children?—Seven pounds sixteen shillings, by her own statement, 3*s.* a week.

12182. What do you make his total income?—Twenty-one pounds sixteen shillings.

12183. What do you make his outgoings?—Five pounds twelve shillings.

12184. What do you make his net income?—Sixteen pounds four shillings.

12185. What is the number of his family?—Two; he has no child.

12186. Mr. Turner states that he has a child?—He had a child, almost still-born, and it might have happened that it was alive at the time Mr. Turner was there.

12187. The total income here is stated to be 19*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-one pounds sixteen shillings.

12188. The net income is stated to be 12*l.* 6*s.*; what do you make it?—Sixteen pounds four shillings.

12189. In this case, are the earnings of the wife taken from the wife's statement or the scale?—From the wife's statement.

12190. The

12190. The next name is Samuel Bonner?—This man's earnings could not be traced beyond 18 weeks in the year 1837.

12191. He is here stated to be employed for 52 weeks, at 1*s.* per week?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) This man refused to attend me to give me any information; he was passing the window, and I sent out to him to beg that he would come in, and he refused.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) But in 18 weeks of jobbing, we found he earned 12*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

12192. Have you any account of the harvest?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I rather think he was turnip-hoeing during harvest.

12193. What is his family?—He has no family.

12194. (To Mr. *Turner.*) Can you explain that?—There is a daughter and grandfather living in the house——(Mr. *Marshall.*) The daughter is supported by the Woburn Union, and he is not responsible for her; she lives with him, and he pays the rent, it seems, but the Woburn Union supports her.

12195. Does the man receive any allowance from the Ampthill Union?—No, he does not.

12196. What do you make his total income?—Twelve pounds eighteen shillings and sixpence.

12197. He being chargeable only for his own maintenance?—Yes.

12198. What are his outgoings?—Two pounds twelve shillings, for rent; the reason I have not put down any thing for fuel is, that he has the privilege of cutting turf for fuel, and he sells the ashes after consuming the turf, and it is rather a profit than otherwise.

12199. What is his net income?—Ten pounds six shillings and sixpence.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) It is to be understood that his earnings are much more considerable, but I could not trace them.

12200. Why do you understand that?—Because I know that he was employed at stone-picking, but I could not trace him; I could not get at his earnings, and not being able satisfactorily to obtain a statement, I would not put it down.

12201. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does he receive relief from the Woburn Union?—He does not belong to the Woburn Union; this man is in full work at this present time.

12202. The allowance from the parish is not to this man, but to his daughter?—It is.

12203. *Chairman.*] Thomas Bunker; what do you state with regard to him; he is stated to be employed for 26 weeks at 6*s.* a week?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) It is difficult to get at his earnings; but we have put them down at 4*s.* a week, 52 weeks, making his earnings for the year 10*l.* 8*s.*

12204. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) Upon what ground do you put his earnings at 4*s.* a week?—This man has employment, when he likes to go to it, at Mr. Whitehurst's, at 1*s.* a day, and he gets his food; he is occasionally, and very frequently, employed by a person in the village upon the same terms, and he is also the village shaver; and he has some little advantage weekly in going to the house of an old master, who gives him some trifle on the Saturday for shoe-cleaning and knife-cleaning, and that kind of thing.

12205. Is there any question about the addition for harvest, or any other item?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) He lives with his son, and therefore has no rent to pay.

12206. His total income is stated by Mr. Turner to be 7*l.* 16*s.*, you make it to be 10*l.* 8*s.*?—Yes.

12207. Peter Bonner is stated here to be employed 13 weeks in 1837 at 10*s.* a week, what do you state his earnings to be?—The man states his own earnings to be 14*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* during the year.

12208. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does he state the number of weeks during which he was employed?—He does not; he has been at the railroad, and has been on jobs, and he does not seem to have any recollection of the thing.

12209. *Chairman.* (To Mr. *Pearse.*)] Did you see him?—I did, and I found it most difficult to trace him; if I had not had returns from persons who were in the habit of employing Westoning people, I should not have been able to make any thing out from his own statement; I found that he was in the employment of six or seven different masters in the course of the year, besides being employed on the railroad.

12210. But is that statement of the amount of his earnings taken from his own statement to you?—His own statement to me partly, and from returns made to me by his employers.

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12211. You made it amount to 14*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*?—Yes, he was many weeks out of employment, he says.

12212. Was he employed in harvest, besides?—No; this man met with an accident, by which he broke three or four of his ribs at the railroad, which incapacitated him for work; he received relief at the time; I do not know the amount.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) Two pounds he received in parish relief.

12213. Mr. Turner has stated the amount of relief, in this table, to be 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; did he receive 2*l.*?—He did.

12214. What are the earnings of his wife and children?—Fifteen pounds nine shillings and tenpence.

12215. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) How did you obtain that information?—From the scale.

12216. What do you make the total income?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Thirty-two pounds seven shillings and one penny.

12217. What are the outgoings?—Six pounds eighteen shillings.

12218. What do you make the net income?—I have not drawn any calculation upon it, because we could find no account of the remainder of the man's time.

12219. You make his total income 32*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*?—Yes, according to his own account; but that gives an account of so small a portion of his time, and knowing it is not correct, I do not adopt it.

12220. The total income here is stated to be 18*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*; you make it 32*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*?—Yes.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) At the moment of closing the statement of this man, I accidentally discovered that he had been employed by the surveyor; I mention that to show the difficulty of obtaining an exact account.

12221. Did the surveyor state how long he had employed him?—Yes.

12222. And that is included in your statement?—Yes.

12223. The next is William Bonner?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) He has a cottage-right, keeps cows and pigs.

12224. How many of them?—Two cows, and sometimes one and sometimes two pigs, and sometimes perhaps more; his wife is employed in the dairy, and when not occupied at home, he has task-work to go to.

12225. He is stated to be employed 37 weeks, at 9*s.* a week; have you any statement to make upon that?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) He will give no information.

12226. Did you ask him?—I asked him distinctly, and he refused to give me any information; his wife the same.

12227. What do you say with regard to the earnings of his wife and family?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) I cannot say any thing; the man is a small farmer; he says he wants nothing from the parish; he is under no compliment to them, and will give no information to them; they have nothing to do with his earnings.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) This was one of the cases which I spoke of, in which I had a difficulty in getting information.

12228. He is stated to be a thresher, and to get 9*s.* a week at his occupation of threshing?—Very likely; I find that he was employed occasionally by a person in the neighbourhood, and his work was as a thresher.

12229. Did that person tell you what he paid him during the weeks he employed him?—He gave me no accurate information; he could not call to mind.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) Bonner said in my presence, that he had task-work to go to when he wanted it and had time.

12230. John King, what do you make as to his employment and wages?—Thirty-three weeks and a half, at 10*s.*; 16*l.* 15*s.*

12231. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) Upon what is that statement founded?—The man's own statement, confirmed by the statement of his employer; as to the larger portion of the time, besides harvest and hay-time, of the persons employed at Tingrith, I must trust to themselves.

12232. Have you any statement with reference to his earnings at harvest?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Four pounds three shillings and eightpence.

12233. What are the earnings of his wife and family?—Eight pounds six shillings and tenpence.

12234. What do you make the total income?—Twenty-nine pounds five shillings and sixpence.

12235. What do you make the outgoings?—Six pounds ten shillings.

12236. What do you make the net income?—Twenty-two pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence.

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12237. The total income in this table appears to be 23*l.* 17*s.*; you make it how much?—Twenty-nine pounds five shillings and sixpence.

12238. The net income appears to be 17*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-two pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence.

12239. What is the number of his family?—Three.

12240. William Lowens?—This man refuses to give any information respecting his income; his wife keeps a day school of 25 scholars; she is also mistress of a Sunday school, for which she receives 1*s.* 6*d.* weekly; but the man will not give any account of himself at all.

12241. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) He is stated here to be employed at jobbing, 13 weeks at 8*s.* a week, and that his earnings from that labour were 5*l.* 4*s.*; have you any statement to make of his earnings?—I saw him the other day, and he said he was very rheumatic and could not do the ordinary work of a labourer, and seldom went to work; I suppose that he is supported by the assistance he may afford his wife in the school, or preserving discipline among the scholars.

12242. (To Mr. *Marshall.*) What do you make the earnings of his wife and children?—I have not put them down.

12243. Why not?—Because we do not know what she gets for the 25 scholars, and what the number averages; she has about 25 scholars, but that fluctuates.—(Mr. *Pearse.*) There is no information to be got in the case.

12244. Have you given any estimate of his total income?—No.

12245. John Short is stated to be in constant employment at 10*s.* a week, and that his earnings therefore amounted to 26*l.*; what do you make them?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) His total income is 25*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*

12246. Has he any wife or family?—None; he was married three weeks before Christmas, and therefore he may be called a single man during 1837; he was married on the 4th of December last.

12247. What do you make his total income?—Twenty-five pounds six shillings and tenpence.

12248. And his net income?—Twenty-four pounds fourteen shillings and tenpence, after paying 12*s.* for a club.

12249. What do you make for his outgoings?—Twelve shillings.

12250. Does he pay no rent?—No, he lives with his father, leaving his net income 24*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*; the man states that he never communicated with either Mr. Turner or Mr. Crabtree, so that, perhaps, they have been misinformed?——(Mr. *Pearse.*) This is the man's own statement to me.

12251. William Odell is stated to be employed 39 weeks at 8*s.* a week; what do you state with regard to him?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) The man states his earnings to be 12*l.* 16*s.*, but cannot give any account as to the number of weeks he was employed; that his earnings during hay-time and harvest were 5*l.* 15*s.*; the earnings of his wife and family, by the scale, are 22*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*

12252. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) With reference to this man, upon what ground do you make the statement with respect to his own earnings?—Upon the man's own information.

12253. With respect to harvest, upon what ground do you make the statement?—From a return made to me by his employer, and his own statement.

12254. With regard to the earnings of his wife and family?—The scale was applied because I did not repeat my visit after the first visit, which was understood to relate to the earnings of the family.

12255. Did you make a former visit to that family?—I did.

12256. Did you ascertain what the earnings were?—Yes.

12257. What were the earnings, according to the statement given to you?—I have given the statement, which was what the woman made to me.

12258. In a former answer, No. 9871, you stated this, that you "received, by word of mouth from Mrs. Odell, she acknowledges that herself and her daughter earn 3*s.* 9*d.* together. They assist each other in household work, and plait together, and sell their plait together. Mary, the second daughter, aged 14, receives for her plait, 3*s.* 10½*d.*; Lucy, 11, her plait produces 3*s.* 9*d.*; Sally, aged eight, clears 3*d.*: this one child, I have noted, goes to school, and the straw and the schooling are deducted, and it leaves 3*d.* There are three younger children from whom there are no earnings;" you were asked whether those earnings were clear earnings, and you say that they are; you were then asked what the total was, and you answered, "Taking the man's earnings at 8*s.* and adding the earnings of the family, gives the total 19*s.* 7½*d.*;" what do you now make the total income of this man and his family?—

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family?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-two pounds two shillings and fourpence; that includes 18*s.* 6*d.*, the value of his garden produce, for which there is no column.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) When the parties themselves have stated the produce, I have valued that produce, deducting the rent where I could arrive at the rent, but in some instances where it was but small, I have not noticed it at all. I wish to give an explanation with reference to this case: when Mr. Fielden, upon the former occasion, examined me respecting it, I had not then seen the printed evidence, and I had no means of referring to some information which I had obtained with respect to the earnings of the family; the memorandum I had was left here, and I stated that the earnings I had given in were the average earnings of the year; I stated it as my impression, that they were so returned; I find, upon reference, that I gave that statement as applying only to the present moment, and that they were not retrospective, and you will find that my evidence was so given; but I had no means of refreshing my memory last time I was examined upon that point.

12259. With respect to the earnings of the family, if you had given in the amount of their earnings as the woman has described them to yourself, do you believe that the total income would be raised beyond the sum you have given in?—I have no doubt of it.

12260. Therefore, by applying the scale, instead of taking the account the woman gave you, makes a reduction in the amount of the income?—Considerably.

12261. What do you make the total income of William Odell?—Forty-two pounds two shillings and fourpence, and his outgoings 8*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*; his rent was 3*l.*, his fuel, 3*l.* 18*s.*, his benefit club, 12*s.*, and a medical club, 12*s.* 8*d.*

12262. Mr. *Hodges.*] With regard to the 18*s.* 6*d.* for the garden, did that arise from the produce that the man sold, or from the estimated value of what the man raised?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) The estimated value; the man acknowledges that he had 30 bushels of potatoes; his rent was 4*s.*; then estimating the potatoes at 9*d.* a bushel, and deducting the 4*s.* for rent, would leave the sum stated.

12263. Was that garden of a size that made it probable that he was employed upon it at any other than extra hours?—He was out of work during a considerable portion of the year, and it is possible that he was employed at that time upon his garden.

12264. At the time he was out of work, was he receiving any assistance from the parish or union?—I believe not, I have no return of any.

12265. *Chairman.*] The total income here is stated to be 27*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-two pounds two shillings and fourpence.

12266. The outgoings were stated to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—Eight pounds two shillings and eightpence.

12267. The net income here is stated to be 20*l.* 14*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-three pounds nineteen shillings and eightpence.

12268. What is the number of the family?—Seven.

12269. William Phillips?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) He refused to attend.

12270. Did you endeavour to obtain from him the amount of his employment and his wages?—I sent to him to come to me, and he declined.

12271. Have you any means, from reference to his employer or in any other way, of ascertaining what his earnings are?—I have, with reference to a portion of the year, but there is a very large portion that I cannot get supplied in any way, therefore I omitted him altogether; I have an account of earnings to the amount of 14*l.* 17*s.*, obtained from the employer.

12272. But not being able to obtain full information you have made no statement?—No.

12273. And you make no statement as to his total income or net income?—No, none.

12274. John Knight is stated to be employed 16 weeks at 7*s.* a week?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) This man will not attend; when unemployed in agriculture, he travels with a basket, his wife is a charwoman much in request; his married daughter occupies part of his house, and his two sons are at service.

12275. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) Did you see this man?—I did.

12276. Were you able to obtain any information as to his earnings or his wages?—I tried to do so to make out his time and the amount of his earnings, but it was so unsatisfactory that I gave it up as hopeless; I had no accurate information to go upon, and therefore I did not put it down.

12277. Was

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12277. Was it that he declined to give sufficient information?—Yes, he gave nformation in such a way that I thought I could not depend upon it; I had nformation in other quarters than from him, but still I would not depend entirely upon that.

12278. Then you have made no statement with regard to this man?—No, except what has been read.

12279. James Walton is the next; he is stated to be employed the whole of the year at 8*s.* a week, did you see James Walton?—I did.

12280. Will you read the statement you have?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) His earnings 17*l.* 14*s.*

12281. How long was he employed?—It is not stated how long he was employed; he earned 5*l.* 5*s.* during harvest.

12282. What are the earnings of his wife and family?—Seven pounds three shillings.

12283. The total income is stated to be 25*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty pounds two shillings.

12284. His outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—The same.

12285. His net income is stated to be 18*l.* 3*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-three pounds twelve shillings.

12286. The number of his family is stated to be three?—That is correct.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) The scale was applied to the wife's earnings; the statement was derived from himself with respect to his own.

12287. William Chance is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) William Chance was employed 46 weeks, at 9*s.*; 20*l.* 14*s.*

12288. How much for the harvest?—Five pounds seven shillings and sixpence.

12289. The earnings of his wife and family?—Three pounds fifteen shillings.

12290. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) In this case how did you arrive at the information with regard to this man and his wife and family?—I believe the woman's earnings are taken from her own statement, and the man's from his employer's. I think this is one of the men that refused to attend me, but I had a return from the employer.

12291. Had you a return with regard to his earnings in harvest, or how do you make that statement?—From his employer.

12292. With regard to the earnings of his wife and family, had you that from her?—From herself.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) The gleanings 7*s.*, that is also from herself.

12293. The total income is stated here to be 25*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty pounds twelve shillings, but that includes 8*s.* 6*d.* for the produce of his garden.

12294. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—Two pounds twelve shillings.

12295. How do you make it so small?—Two pounds for fuel, and 12*s.* to the club; rent they pay none.

12296. How happens it to be so small?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) He lives with his father, who is a pauper.

12297. Does not he pay any thing for lodgings?—He supplies the fuel.

12298. Did you understand from the wife that he paid no rent?—Distinctly, no rent.

12299. The net income is stated here to be 19*l.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-eight pounds.

12300. The number of the family is stated to be four?—That is correct.

12301. Joseph Phillips is the next?—Joseph Phillips is another that refuses to give information.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) Joseph Phillips was sent to, and refused to attend.

12302. Have you, therefore, no statement with reference to the earnings of himself, or his wife, or his family?—I have no statement to offer.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) The man kept two pigs, which are not stated there.

12303. William Marlow is the next?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I am in the same situation with respect to him; he refused to attend.

12304. Have you any memorandum with reference to Marlow?—The man refused to give any information with reference to himself and his family.——Mr. *Pearse.*) In the returns of his employer I can only trace half his time, and the party refusing to attend, I have not put down any thing.

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12305. The next is Robert Odell?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Fifty-two weeks employed, 22 *l.* 19*s.* 6 *d.*

12306. At what wages?—Various, railroad and jobbing.

12307. Is there any thing about harvest?—No, the earnings of his family are 5 *l.* 4 *s.*

12308. The total income here is stated to be 21 *l.* 19*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-eight pounds three shillings and sixpence.

12309. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Six pounds twelve shillings and fourpence.

12310. The net income is stated to be 15 *l.* 9*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 21 *l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

12311. The number of his family is stated to be three?—That is correct.

12312. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) What are the sources from which you derive your information as to this man?—The man's own statement.

12313. With reference to the earnings of his wife and family?—The scale was applied; he said that in the course of last year he paid a visit to his brother; of course there were no earnings during that time; earnings might have been greater but for that circumstance; he was absent three or four weeks.

12314. The next is William Aldridge, what have you got with regard to him?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-one weeks at 10*s.*, 20*l.* 10*s.*, and four weeks at 7*s.*, 1*l.* 8*s.*; that was from the club. The earnings of the labourer during hay-time and harvest, 4*l.* 5*s.*; the earnings of his wife and family, 1*l.* 6*s.*

12315. His total income is here stated to be 28 *l.* 10 *s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-seven pounds nine shillings.

12316. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 10*s.*?—Two pounds and fourpence.

12317. How happens it that you make the outgoings so small?—He did not marry till Michaelmas last, and he has only a quarter of a year to pay rent for, which is 7*s.* 6*d.* a quarter of a year; fuel, which is 19 *s.* 6*d.*; in his club he paid 13*s.* 4 *d.*

12318. How happened it that he did not pay the rent of the remaining three quarters of a year?—He was living with his father.

12319. Did he make no allowance to his father for lodging?—He did not.

12320. Here the net income is stated to be 22*l.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-five pounds eight shillings and eightpence.

12321. The number of his family is stated to be three; what do you make it?—I make it one and a half; he married a woman with a child at Michaelmas, and that for a quarter of a year would be the same as half a one for the whole year; there is no way of calculating it but that.

12322. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) Did you see this man?—I saw the man, and it was his own statement to me with regard to his own earnings; the woman gave information as to her earnings.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) It was 26 *s.* for the quarter of the year.

12323. The next is Benjamin Cox?—Forty-four weeks at 9 *s.*, 19*l.* 16*s.*

12324. Harvest, how much?—Five pounds nineteen shillings.

12325. How much for the earnings of his wife and family?—Fifteen pounds nine shillings and tenpence; the gleanings, 3*s.* 6*d.*, and the produce of garden, 1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

12326. The total income here is stated to be 33*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-two pounds fifteen shillings and tenpence.

12327. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Six pounds eighteen shillings.

12328. The net income is stated to be 26*l.* 6*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-five pounds seventeen shillings and tenpence.

12329. The number of the family is stated to be nine; what do you make it?—Eight.

12330. From whom did you derive the information in this case?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) The information was derived from the man himself as to his own earnings, and the scale applied as to the earnings of the family.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) There are six children and the man and wife.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) All that the girl would admit was that she paid 6*s.* for her board and lodging, and she declined to state her earnings. There seems to be a large amount for garden produce here; but this man rents two large plots of ground, for which he pays 13*s.* and 12*s.*, and he says

says that the produce, 70 bushels of potatoes, valuing them at 9*d.*, would leave the statement as shown.

12331. Now we come to Thomas Odell?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-one weeks at 10*s.*, 20*l.* 10*s.*; and three weeks at 9*s.*, 1*l.* 7*s.*; his earnings during hay-time and harvest, 5*l.* 13*s.*, and garden produce, 8*s.* 9*d.*

12332. Any thing for his wife and family?—No; the children are too young; the woman said she did not earn any thing.

12333. The total income is stated here to be 28*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-seven pounds eighteen shillings and ninepence.

12334. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—Seven pounds two shillings.

12335. The net income 21*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty pounds sixteen shillings and ninepence.

12336. In this case, was the information derived from the man himself?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I saw the man himself.

12337. How happens it that there are no earnings for the wife and children?—The children are too young; there are four under the age of eight.

12338. And the woman is occupied with them?—Yes; I should not have put any thing down for the wife under such circumstances; the oldest child is seven.

12339. Mr. *Fielden.*] You had it from the man himself?—The man's own information to me.

12340. *Chairman.*] John Odell is next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) This man belongs to Woburn Union, from which he has received an allowance of 6*s.* a week, being subject to disease of the liver, and unequal to ordinary labour; very little is known of this man's engagements, but he has considerable business as a mole-catcher; his profits as a rat-catcher may be imagined from the circumstance of his keeping six dogs, besides ferrets; his habits are said to be drunken and irregular; he has a man lodger who pays him 20*s.* a year; that is all the information we could get of him.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) We made no estimate of his earnings, being quite casual.

12341. Had he a wife and children?—He has a wife and children; I called two or three times at his house, and could not see him.

12342. Do you make any estimate of the earnings of the wife and children?—No, there is nothing put down.

12343. What is the number of his family?—I have no particulars of that kind, nothing with respect to that man.

12344. The total income of that man is stated here to be 22*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*; do you put down any thing?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) I do not put down any thing; it is impossible to get at his income.

12345. The next is James Nield?—Thirty-seven weeks in work at 10*s.* a week, 18*l.* 10*s.*; harvest, 6*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*

12346. A wife and family?—None.

12347. The total income here is stated to be 17*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-four pounds eleven shillings and ninepence.

12348. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Five pounds four shillings.

12349. The net income is stated to be 10*l.* 14*s.*; what do you make it?—Nineteen pounds seven shillings and ninepence.

12350. What is the number of his family?—Three; there are two children and no wife; the man is a hay-binder, and what is called generally a handy man; he is supposed to earn considerable sums through the year, but he spends a great deal of it at the ale-house, so that in speaking of this man's earnings we do not come near to them, I know.

12351. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) The Committee understand that what Mr. Marshall reads from that paper is your information?—It is.

12352. From whom had you this account?—From the man himself, as to his earnings.

12353. The next person is William Gazelee; have you any statement with regard to this man?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) He is a permanent pauper throughout the year at 5*s.* a week.

12354. William Pedder; what have you got as to him?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) This man refused to attend me; he said, that as he had not given any information either to Mr. Turner or to Mr. Crabtree, he refused to give any information to me;

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me; but I can trace him in work for 45 weeks at 9*s.* 6*d.*, earning 21*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; hay-time and harvest 6*l.* 2*s.*

12355. Had you that information from his employer?—I had; and I had the means of ascertaining his rent and his children.

12356. Have you any means of ascertaining the earnings of his wife and family?—I learnt that; the wife and children plait; the wife is 30 years of age; there are five children under 13; their ages are 12, 7, 5, 4 and 2 years.

12357. What would be the earnings of a family of the ages you have described, according to the scale?—I have not put down any thing for the wife, because there are four children under the age of 10.

12358. The total income here is stated to be 33*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) The man's earnings are 27*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, as derived from his employer, and adding that to the earnings of the wife and family, you will get the total amount.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) That would be 32*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*

12359. What do you make the outgoings?—Seven pounds.

12360. What do you make the net income?—Twenty-five pounds four shillings and tenpence.

12361. What is the number of the family?—Seven.

12362. Was that information derived from the man?—No, from his employer as to his earnings; the particulars of the family were derived from a source I can depend upon; he has given me information as to the amount of his fuel, and as to his rent it comes from his landlord; as to the benefit club, I have a return of the benefit club.

12363. The next is William Short?—William Short refused to attend me; I have a statement from his employer.——(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-five weeks at 11*s.*, 24*l.* 15*s.*; harvest and hay-time 6*l.* 6*s.*; the earnings of his family 13*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

12364. The total income here is stated to be 31*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-four pounds fifteen shillings and one penny.

12365. The outgoings are stated to be 7*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Seven pounds nineteen shillings and fourpence.

12366. The net income is stated to be 23*l.* 5*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-six pounds fifteen shillings and ninepence.

12367. The number of the family is stated to be five?—That is correct.

12368. From whence do you derive the information as to that man?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From his employer as to his earnings, and by the scale as to the earnings of his children.

12369. And with regard to the harvest?—From his employer.

12370. The outgoings in this instance are large; what is the reason of that?—The rent is stated at 1*s.* 4*d.* a week, which is a trifle more than is usual; the firing is at the usual amount, 3*l.* 18*s.* a year; and he belongs to a benefit club.

12371. John Wilstead is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) He is employed as a sawyer, 48 weeks, at 10*s.* and beer, 24*l.* in money and 1*l.* for harvest; the earnings of his family 9*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, and gleaning 7*s.*

12372. The total income is stated to be 26*l.* 16*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-four pounds seventeen shillings and eightpence.

12373. The outgoings are stated to be 7*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Seven pounds two shillings and fourpence.

12374. The net income is stated to be 18*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-seven pounds fifteen shillings and fourpence.

12375. The number in family is said to be three?—That is correct.

12376. From whence did you derive that information in this instance?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself as to his earnings, and by the scale as to his wife, family and daughter.

12377. The next is John Somerfield?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-four weeks at 9*s.*, 19*l.* 16*s.*; his harvest and hay-time 7*l.* 3*s.*; the earnings of his wife 3*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; value of his garden allotment 12*s.* 6*d.*

12378. The total here is stated to be 29*l.* 6*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-one pounds three shillings.

12379. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Five pounds seventeen shillings.

12380. The net income 22*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-five pounds six shillings.

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12381. The number of family five?—That is correct.

12382. From whence do you obtain information in this instance?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself, and confirmed by his employer.

12383. Daniel Kingham is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) On the railroad 41 weeks at 10*s.*, 20*l.* 10*s.*; earnings during hay-time and harvest 1*l.* 7*s.*; wife and family 2*l.* 12*s.*

12384. The total income is here stated to be 26*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-four pounds nine shillings.

12385. The outgoings are stated to be 7*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Seven pounds nineteen shillings and fourpence.

12386. The net income is stated to be 18*l.* 6*s.*; what do you make it?—Sixteen pounds nine shillings and eightpence.

12387. The number of his family is five?—That is correct.

12388. From whence had you information with regard to this man?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) The man himself; I could have taken the earnings on the railroad at a much higher amount, but I took their own statement; they said they did not work more than four days and a half; I had not time to apply to their employers, which I should have done had the time admitted of it, and I cannot help thinking that I should have received a very different statement.

12389. In the case where men had been employed upon the railroad, you have not had an opportunity of referring to the contractors, to know the amount of their earnings?—No; so that I could not get them confirmed.

12390. In most instances you have taken the statement from the man himself?—Yes, I do not know an exception as to the men employed on the railroad.

12391. Have you any reason to suppose that when a man states that he has been working at the railroad at 10*s.* a week, that that is less than the usual price paid for that description of work?—Yes, and it is stated at that amount here to allow for bad weather, or some circumstances which he mentioned to me, which would go in reduction of his wages.

12392. Mr. *Fielden.*] Had you this information from Kingham himself?—I had.

12393. *Chairman.*] George Jackson is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Twenty-six weeks at 9*s.*, 11*l.* 14*s.*; earnings of the labourer during hay season and harvest, 7*l.* 4*s.*; earnings of his wife and family 41*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* by the scale; they are all adults.

12394. The total income here is stated to be 29*l.* 6*s.*; what do you make it?—Sixty-one pounds three shillings and fourpence, but that includes 10*s.* 9*d.*, the estimated value of his garden produce.

12395. The outgoings are stated to be 3*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—That is correct.

12396. The net income is stated to be 25*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—Fifty-seven pounds five shillings and threepence.

12397. The number of his family is said to be eight?—That is correct; this man left a place of work at 9*s.* a week to resort to begging.

12398. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) With regard to the man himself, from whom did you derive the information as to his earnings?—Partly from his employer and partly from himself; but his employer stated that he left a place of regular work at 9*s.* to go begging, and it is impossible to ascertain what he obtained in that way.

12399. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You say you obtained it partly from the man, and partly from the employer; do you mean that you corrected his statement from the information of the employer?—I would not wish to offer this case as one that will bear comparison with any former year, for the reason I state, that he left a place of constant work to go begging, and it is impossible to ascertain what he obtained in that way; I would rather withdraw the case altogether from the notice of the Committee.

12400. Did he state a less sum than you collected as the result of the information?—Decidedly, he gave a most unsatisfactory account altogether.

12401. *Chairman.*] You endeavoured to ascertain this man's earnings, first from himself and afterwards from his employer?—I got a return from his employer as to a portion of his earnings.

12402. With respect to that portion of his earnings, did you receive any statement from the man himself?—I did, in part.

12403. Did the statement correspond with the statement you received from his employer?—

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employer?—No; he acknowledged a larger amount in the hay-time than I could trace amongst his employers.

12404. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did you ask what induced him to quit a place of steady work to go begging?—He said that it was the sickness of his wife induced him to leave a place of regular work to go begging.

12405. Did you pursue the inquiry further?—Not much further, and if you had seen the state of that house you would have been very glad to have departed from it; it was in the most wretched condition you can imagine; I left it covered with vermin.

12406. Did he say that his wife had received medical assistance?—I did not pursue the inquiry.

12407. Do you happen to know whether he was expected to pay for the medical attendance for his wife?—I cannot state; I have very little information to give about him.

12408. Did not it occur to you, that it was rather an extraordinary thing for a man to quit a place of steady work because his wife was sick?—It did not, for, knowing something of the character of the man, I was not surprised at any step of the kind.

12409. *Chairman.*] Did you believe that that was his reason?—It is impossible for me to tell what are the man's resources.

12410. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you know that he got more by begging than by his work?—I should have inferred it from his doing it.

12411. Did you understand that he made the illness of his wife the ground of doing so?—The pretext.

12412. Had he any particular claim for charity; is he lame or sick?—Nothing but the sickness of his wife; she is always in bad health.

12413. Was there any thing in the man's appearance to excite charity?—I am not aware of any thing of that kind personally in the man himself.

12414. There is nothing in his appearance to excite any particular sympathy, so as to give him a chance of getting any thing by begging?—No, there was nothing in his appearance; I do not know what statement he made.

12415. *Chairman.*] With respect to this man, George Jackson, you stated the earnings of the family to be 41*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; as that amount appears large, will you give some explanation of that?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) There are six in the family above the age of 9; there is a girl of 20, a girl of 18, a girl 16, a girl 14, a girl 12, and a boy 10.

12416. Did you obtain any information as to their earnings, or did you apply the scale?—I could not obtain any information as to the earnings; I have estimated it by the scale, which I have stated.

12417. Do you believe, from what you observed of that family, that they earned the amount described in the scale?—I cannot state what their earnings are; the girls are prostitutes; I was glad to get away from the house.

12418. The next is James Sharman?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-four weeks, at 10*s.*, 22*l.*; harvest, 7*l.* 3*s.*; wife and family, 11*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*; 10*s.* 6*d.* for gleanings, and 8*s.* 9*d.* the value of his garden produce.

12419. The total income is stated to be 30*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*; what do you make it?—Forty-two pounds and one penny.

12420. The outgoings are stated to be 5*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 3*l.* 18*s.*

12421. The net income is stated to be 33*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-eight pounds two shillings and one penny.

12422. The number of the family is said to be five?—That is correct.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—This information was obtained from the man himself, in this case, as to his own earnings, and the scale applied to the children.

12423. Richard Short?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Thirty-two weeks at 9*s.*, 14*l.* 8*s.*; harvest, 4*l.* 17*s.*; wife and family, 25*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

12424. The total income is stated here to be 32*l.* 11*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-four pounds five shillings and sixpence.

12425. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.*; what do you make them?—Six pounds one shilling and fourpence.

12426. The net income is stated to be 26*l.* 11*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-eight pounds four shillings and twopence; and number of the family four.

12427. In this case how did you obtain this information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself, and the scale applied to the girls; their ages are 21 and 16.

12428. They

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12428. They are of an age at which they can make the greatest earnings according to the scale?—Yes.

12429. The next is James Brinkley?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) The man's earnings, so far as he stated them, were 16*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, and the earnings of his wife, 2*l.* 12*s.*; he had an allowance from the parish of 10*s.*, making 19*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*

12430. The net income here is stated to be 11*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—I did not draw it out, from the nature of a remark in the book.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—This man's statement was most unsatisfactory; he was offensive in manner, and unwilling to disclose his earnings.

12431. Had you no means of ascertaining his earnings, by applying to the employer?—No, because he travelled with a basket, and he was unwilling to disclose his earnings.——(Mr. *Marshall.*)—He deals in hare-skins, and phials and rags, when he is unemployed in agriculture.

12432. The next is William Linger?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) This man has removed from the parish; he travelled with a basket, except in harvest, and no account could be obtained of his earnings.

12433. Or that of his family?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) Or that of his family; he has left the parish.

12434. The next is James Linger?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) He was 25 weeks at the railroad, and 20 weeks at plaiting; his earnings, 16*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, and his earnings during the hay season and harvest, 2*l.* 11*s.*, making a total of 19*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*

12435. Has he any wife and family?—No.

12436. The total income is stated to be 9*l.* 2*s.*; what do you make it?—Nineteen pounds six shillings and fourpence.

12437. The outgoings are stated to be 2*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Ten shillings.

12438. The net income here is stated to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Eighteen pounds sixteen shillings and fourpence.

12439. How is it that you make the outgoings so small?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) He lives with his mother, and pays no rent.

12440. Does not he pay any money for lodging?—His mother says not; I believe the mother does not pay any rent.

12441. Mr. *Fielden.*] What is the number of his family?—He is a single man.

12442. *Chairman.*] The next is John Farr?—A shepherd, 44 weeks at 6*s.*, amounting to 13*l.* 4*s.*, and 3*l.* 10*s.* in harvest, and 5*l.* 4*s.* earnings of his wife.

12443. The total of his income is stated to be 16*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-one pounds eighteen shillings.

12444. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—That is correct.

12445. The net income is stated to be 10*l.*; what do you make it?—Fifteen pounds.

12446. The number of the family is two?—That is correct.

12447. How did you get the information as to this man?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I did not see him; the wife gave me the earnings at 5*s.* 6*d.* a week; but the employer says he always gives him 6*s.*, and was surprised at the wife's statement. There is a variation in his wages in hay-time and harvest, which is not stated. This man is crippled in the arm, which disables him from the ordinary work of a day-labourer. The wife stated that she had a sick sister for a large portion of the past year in her house, for six months at least, and that during that time there were no earnings, and that therefore she could only acknowledge to earnings for the last six months of the year, and I believe I put it down on her own statement at 2*s.* a week. She received an allowance from the parish for nursing her sister, but that is not noticed; I have not put that down.

12448. During that time she was unable to earn any thing by her own labour; but she was receiving something from the parish as a remuneration for her labour?—It was not a remuneration, because her sister was in a state of coercion that prevented her earning any thing.

12449. But it was some assistance?—It was; but not a remuneration.

12450. The woman's attendance upon her sick sister would have precluded her earning any thing; then comes in the parish and gives her something in compensation for her loss of time, and in that sense the parish payment must be said to be an assistance to her?—Yes; only the woman declared that it was not adequate, and I therefore struck off the six months altogether from her earnings.

12451. The next is William Phillips?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I have no information to give in this case.

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12452. Why have you no information to give?—He refused to attend.

12453. Henry Hilyard is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Jobbing and plaiting, 49 weeks, 13*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, hay-time and harvest 4*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*; no wife or family.

12454. His total income is here stated to be 15*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Eighteen pounds twelve shillings and threepence.

12455. His outgoings are said to be 2*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make them?—I make them 12*s.*

12456. His net income is stated to be 12*l.* 5*s.*; what do you make it?—Eighteen pounds and threepence.

12457. Why do you make so small an allowance for his outgoings?—He lives with his parents, and pays 12*s.* to the club.

12458. Do you suppose that he pays his parents nothing for lodging with them?—Yes.

12459. Did you obtain the information from the man himself?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I did.

12460. And you are satisfied that he pays nothing for his lodging?—I do not know what he pays for his board. I have no statement from him. I do not think he pays for his lodging.

12461. The next is Job Sherwood?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-five weeks as a woodman at 11*s.*, 24*l.* 15*s.*; his hay-season and harvest 6*l.* 2*s.*; earnings of his family 16*l.* 18*s.*

12462. His total income is stated to be 38*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-seven pounds fifteen shillings.

12463. His outgoings are stated to be 7*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—Six pounds four shillings.

12464. His net income is stated to be 30*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-one pounds eleven shillings.

12465. The number of his family is said to be eight?—That is correct.

12466. From whom did you obtain this information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself; and I believe I got it from the man himself with reference to the children.

12467. John Hack is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) This man is too weak in intellect to give any account of his income; he lives with his mother and sister, and is frequently unemployed when work is scarce. He was a long time an inmate of the workhouse, and perhaps that would be the most proper place for him still.

12468. He has stated his total earnings, 36 weeks, at 6*s.*?—The man is not capable of giving that information himself.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—He has no memory; he is weak in intellect; the man is 40, and fancies himself 70.——(Mr. *Marshall.*)—He came to the board and said he was 70 years of age.

12469. Jesse Short is the next; what have you got respecting this man?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) We cannot obtain any account of his earnings; he is the son of William Short, living at home with his parents, and I suppose his earnings go to the benefit of the father, though he cannot give any account; he works with the father and jobs at home and plaits, and has been down at the railroad; but I cannot give any satisfactory account of his earnings.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—I have no statement to offer with respect to him.

12470. Joseph Linger is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) He was 28 weeks at the railroad at 8*s.*, and 24 weeks odd, and plaiting, at 1*s.* 6*d.*

12471. His total income is said to be 1*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirteen pounds.

12472. His outgoings are said to be 2*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make them?—He has no outgoings; he lives at home with his mother.

12473. His net income is said to be 5*l.* 16*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 13*l.*

12474. (To Mr. *Pearse.*) Did you see this man?—I did not; but this information is derived from the mother and brother; the brothers worked together.

12475. John Cox is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) He is the son of Benjamin Cox; 42 weeks in employment, 17*l.* 16*s.*; and 4*l.* 12*s.* during harvest and hay-time.

12476. His total income here is said to be 13*l.* 13*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-seven pounds eight shillings.

12477. His outgoings are stated to be 2*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make them?—I make them 12*s.*, the club only; because he is at home with his father.

12478. His net income is stated to be 11*l.* 1*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-one

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one pounds sixteen shillings.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—This man certainly pays for his board and lodging to his father; he pays 3*s.* 6*d.* a week.

12479. Then his father maintains him?—Yes.

12480. The next is John Eaton?—Forty-four weeks at the railroad, jobbing and plaiting.

12481. The total income is here stated to be 13*l.* 15*s.*; what do you make it?—Nineteen pounds eight shillings and tenpence.

12482. What are his outgoings?—Nothing.

12483. His net income is said to be 11 *l.* 3*s.*; what do you make it?—Nineteen pounds eight shillings and tenpence.

12484. Why has he no outgoings?—He lives with his father, who does not pay any rent himself.

12485. With regard to John Kingham?—Forty-five weeks at 9*s.*; 20*l.* 5*s.*; harvest, 5*l.* 8*s.*; earnings of family, 3*l.* 18*s.*; and 12*s.* 6*d.* estimated value of garden produce.

12486. The total income is said to be 28*l.*; what do you make it?—Thirty pounds three shillings and sixpence.

12487. The outgoings are said to be 7*l.* 3*s.*; what do you make them?—Seven pounds fifteen shillings.

12488. The net income is said to be 7*l.* 2*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 22*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

12489. The number of the family is five?—That is correct.

12490. How did you obtain this information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the employer, I am uncertain whether I saw this man or not; but from the employer I had the earnings.

12491. The next is Joseph Eaton?—I have no information to give, because he would not attend me; I had his earnings from his employer; but I do not know the particulars of his family; but the particulars may be obtained from Mr. Turner's statement.—— (Mr. *Marshall.*)—We have the man's earnings, 20*l.* 5*s.*; 5*s.* 8*d.* during harvest; and if Mr. Turner's statement is adopted, 5*l.* 4*s.* is the earnings of the wife; it will make 30*l.* 17*s.*

12492. The total income is stated to be 30*l.* 12*s.*; the outgoings here are stated to be 6*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make them?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I can give no information as to the outgoings; I can only give what I derived from his employer.

12493. Thomas Gazelee?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-five weeks at 8*s.*; 18*l.*; 6*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, during hay and harvest, and 2*l.* 12*s.* the earnings of his family.

12494. Have you taken that 2*l.* 12*s.* from Mr. Turner's statement?—No.

12495. The total income here is said to be 24*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-six pounds thirteen shillings and threepence.

12496. His outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make them?—Seven pounds fifteen shillings and tenpence.

12497. The net income is said to be 17*l.* 7*s.*; what do you make it?—Eighteen pounds seventeen shillings and fivepence.

12498. The number of the family is said to be five?—That is correct.

12499. How did you obtain that?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I had the information from his employer; I forget whether I saw the man himself.

12500. In the table of 1830, the first is John Cook?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I have no information to offer with regard to John Cook; I have no information by which I could bind myself.

12501. Mr. *Fielden.*] In this table is the name of the employer, as well as the name of the labourer; have you applied to the employer to know whether his statement is correct?—I have a return of it from the employer; with regard to the hay and harvest, the man refuses to give me the particulars of his family, or any other particular.

12502. Have you ascertained that John Cook was employed by Mr. Williamson during the year 1837?—I have heard that he was, but I cannot give my authority for it in any way.

12503. Do you know Mr. Williamson?—Perfectly well.

12504. Have you applied to Mr. Williamson for information upon the subject?—No, he lives out of the parish; it is a considerable distance.

12505. What is the distance?—Three or four miles; Mr. Williamson lives nine or ten miles from Westoning, but he has a farm three or four miles off.

12506. *Chairman.*] Have you had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Williamson?—

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Mr. Williamson is in a dying state, and I could not apply to him, but I might have applied to the bailiff of the farm, but I did not send to him, not being aware that there were any Westoning men employed there, with the exception of this man, which I learnt lately.

12507. From whom did you hear that he was employed for Mr. Williamson?—I cannot say.

12508. Then you have no information to offer upon this case?—I have none to offer upon this case; I should be glad if I had, because I believe this man's earnings are considerable.

12509. What is his employment?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) He is a rick-builder.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—That would apply only to hay-time and harvest.

12510. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do not you consider a rick-builder among the first class of labourers in that part of the country?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) He would get extra wages in hay-time and harvest; it might make 1*s.* a week difference.

12511. You would not consider him a first-class labourer on that account?—Not on that account; old men are often employed as rick-builders.

12512. *Chairman.*] The next is George King?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-one weeks at 8*s.*, 16*l.* 8*s.*; 5*l.* 8*s.* earnings during harvest; earnings of his wife and family, 25*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*; he has 4*l.* extra for shearing.

12513. The total income here is said to be 36*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—Fifty-one pounds eleven shillings and eightpence.

12514. The outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 7*l.* 10*s.*

12515. The net income is said to be 29*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-four pounds one shilling and eightpence.

12516. The number of the family is said to be eight?—The number of his family is six.

12517. Upon what grounds do you state this information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) The information is derived from his employer, and confirmed by himself as to his earnings, with the exception of the shearing, which his employer states is considerably above 4*l.*

12518. With regard to the earnings of his wife and family?—The scale was applied; it was his wife who refused to give any statement, and was so exceedingly insolent when I called; in addition to which this man has beer and milk daily, and he plaits while tending the sheep.

12519. Then altogether the man is well off?—Exceedingly well off.

12520. The next is Joseph Bunker?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-five weeks at 9*s.*, 20*l.* 5*s.*; earnings during hay-time and harvest, 5*l.* 5*s.*; earnings of wife and family, 9*l.* 2*s.*

12521. The total income is here stated to be 33*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-four pounds twelve shillings.

12522. The outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Six pounds five shillings.

12523. The net income is said to be 26*l.* 6*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-eight pounds seven shillings.

12524. The number of his family is said to be seven; what do you make it?—Six.

12525. From whom did you obtain this information in this case?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From his employer.

12526. The next case is Thomas Bunyan?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-five weeks at 9*s.*, 20*l.* 5*s.*; 5*l.* 5*s.* during hay-harvest; 18*l.* 4*s.* the earning of the family.

12527. The total income is said to be 33*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-three pounds fourteen shillings.

12528. The outgoings 6*l.* 18*s.*?—That is correct.

12529. The net income 26*l.* 6*s.*; what do you make it?—Net income, 36*l.* 16*s.*

12530. The number of family five; is that correct?—Five.

12531. How did you obtain that information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I got information as to his earnings from his employer.

12532. The next is William Bunker?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-four weeks at 10*s.* 6*d.*, 23*l.* 2*s.*; earnings during hay-time and harvest, 6*l.* 10*s.*; earnings of wife and family, 11*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*; gleanings, 17*s.* 6*d.*; garden ground, 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

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12533. The total income is stated to be 35*l.* 16*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-four pounds five shillings and fourpence.

12534. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—Seven pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence.

12535. The net income is said to be 28*l.* 3*s.*, what do you make it?—Thirty-six pounds nine shillings and tenpence.

12536. The number of family, eight?—That is correct.

12537. How did you obtain this information?—From his employer.

12538. And with regard to the earnings of his family?—By the scale, I believe.

12539. The next is Crawley Bonner?—This man refused to give any account of the earnings of his wife; we know his own earnings, 45 weeks at 8*s.* a week, 18*l.* and 3*l.* 17*s.* during hay and harvest; his wife is the post-woman of the place, errand woman and keeps a shop.

12540. The total income here is stated to be 18*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—His own income is 21*l.* 17*s.*, without stating any thing for the wife.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—He is regularly employed as a shepherd; I have information as to his earnings from his employer; the woman sells shop goods, but she would give no account whatever.

12541. The outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—I have not put it down, as she refused to give any information; I thought we could not come to any fair conclusion.

12542. The next is John Bass?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-five weeks at 9*s.*, 20*l.* 5*s.*; earnings of labourer during hay season and harvest, 5*l.* 8*s.*; earnings of wife and family, 12*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*

12543. The total income here is stated to be 25*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-eight pounds five shillings.

12544. The outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Six pounds five shillings.

12545. The net income is said to be 19*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-two pounds.

12546. The number of family, six?—Yes.

12547. Where did you get that information from?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself, and from his employer, and by the scale as regards the children.

12548. The next is Richard Pedder?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-one weeks employed, 17*l.* 9*s.*; the earnings during harvest and hay-time, 4*l.* 5*s.*; earnings of wife and family, 5*l.* 4*s.*; 1*l.* 4*s.* field allotment.

12549. The total income here is stated to be 25*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-eight pounds five shillings.

12550. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—The outgoings I make 6*l.* exactly.

12551. The net income is said to be 19*l.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-two pounds five shillings.

12552. Mr. *Fielden.*] How did you obtain this information with regard to Richard Pedder?—From Richard Pedder himself and his employer.

12553. For the family, did you adopt the scale?—No, it was the man's information; I have not put any scale in this case, but it was his own voluntary information.

12554. *Chairman.*] William Gazelee?—Forty-five weeks at 9*s.*, 20*l.* 5*s.*; his earnings during hay-time and harvest, 5*l.* 8*s.*; earnings of wife and family, 15*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

12555. The total income here is said to be 35*l.* 16*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty pounds fourteen shillings and tenpence.

12556. The outgoings 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—That is correct.

12557. The net income is said to be 28*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-three pounds sixteen shillings and tenpence, and the number of the family, five.

12558. How did you obtain this information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From his employer, and I think from the man himself the scale as to the wife and children's earnings.

12559. The next is Jesse Gazelee?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Fifty-two weeks at 5*s.*, 13*l.*; lives with his father.

12560. That is his total income?—Yes.

12561. His outgoings are said to be 2*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—His outgoings are nothing; he lives with his father.

12562. His net income is said to be 10*l.* 8*s.*; you make it 13*l.*?—Yes.

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12563. How did you get that information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I did not see him; his employer reported it to me; if the 2*l.* 12*s.* is deducted for lodging, it must be added to the father's amount.

12564. Richard Gurney?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Fifty-two weeks jobbing, 27*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; earnings of wife and family, 3*l.* 18*s.*; his garden allotment, 15*s.*

12565. The total income here is stated to be 28*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-two pounds and sixpence.

12566. The outgoings 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—The outgoings, I make 7*l.* 16*s.*

12567. The net income is said to be 21*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-four pounds four shillings and sixpence.

12568. The number of the family, three?—That is correct.

12569. From whom did you get this information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself and his employer; he was 51 weeks with his employer, but he was one week away on his own account, and therefore I put him down at 52, because he was away on his own pleasure.

12570. The next is William Hyde?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-five weeks at 9*s.*, 20*l.* 5*s.*; earnings during hay season and harvest, 5*l.* 8*s.*; earnings of wife and family, 19*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*

12571. The total income is said to be 35*l.* 2*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-four pounds fourteen shillings and fourpence.

12572. The outgoings are 7*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—Four pounds ten shillings.

12573. The net income is said to be 27*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—Forty pounds four shillings and fourpence.

12574. The number of family, nine?—The number of family, six.

12575. From whom had you that information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself and his employer, and by the scale as to the girl's earnings.

12576. Joseph Gurney is the next?—Forty-two weeks at 12*s.*, 25*l.* 4*s.*; earnings of labourer during harvest, 6*l.* 6*s.*

12577. The total income is said to be 28*l.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-one pounds ten shillings.

12578. The outgoings are said to be 3*l.* 18*s.*?—It is 18*s.*

12579. The net income is said to be 24*l.* 2*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 30*l.* 12*s.*

12580. The number of family, two; what do you make it?—Only one.

12581. Has he a wife and a child?—No, he was a single man up to 1837.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—He married last Christmas. He was living at Tingrith till he married, which was about Christmas, and then he went to live at Westoning; that was his own information, and from his employer besides.

12582. Thomas Yates?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-six weeks at 9*s.*, 20*l.* 14*s.*; 5*l.* 11*s.* in hay season and harvest; 10*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* earnings of family; 10*s.* 6*d.* gleanings, and 15*s.* the value of his garden applotment.

12583. The total income here is said to be 35*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-seven pounds thirteen shillings and one penny.

12584. The outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it the same.

12585. The net income, 21*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty pounds fifteen shillings and one penny.

12586. The number of family, six?—The number of family, six.

12587. From whom did you get this information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself, as to his earnings, and the scale as to the earnings of his children.

12588. William Bunyan is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) William Bunyan, 45 weeks at 9*s.*, 20*l.* 5*s.*; hay season and harvest, 5*l.* 13*s.*; wife and family, 3*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; garden allotment, 1*l.*

12589. The total income is said to be 30*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty pounds nine shillings and sixpence.

12590. The outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—The outgoings are 9*l.* 8*s.*

12591. The net income is said to be 23*l.* 14*s.*?—I make it only 21*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

12592. The number of family, seven; what do you make it?—The number of family, six.

12593. How did you get this?—From the employer, as to his earnings, and either from the wife or himself as to the other particulars.

12594. Henry

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12594. Henry Hyde is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-eight weeks, at 9*s.*, 21*l.* 12*s.*; 4*l.* 5*s.* during harvest; 1*l.* 6*s.* earnings of his wife.

12595. The total income here, is 25*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-seven pounds three shillings.

12596. The outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make them?—The outgoings are 2*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*

12597. The net income here is said to be 19*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-four pounds ten shillings and tenpence.

12598. The number of family, two?—Two.

12599. From whom did you get this information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From his employer, and from his wife.

12600. The next is Peter Chance?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-four weeks in work, 21*l.* 17*s.*; 5*l.* 10*s.* for hay-time and harvest; 3*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* for earnings of wife and family.

12601. The total income is said to be 37*l.* 2*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 31*l.* 7*s.*

12602. The outgoings are stated to be 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—Six pounds five shillings.

12603. The net income is stated to be 30*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-five pounds two shillings and sixpence.

12604. The number of family, six?—I make it five.

12605. How do you make the earnings of the wife and family so small here?—There are none that can earn, except the wife; there are three children, the youngest is six months old.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—The woman had a child before marriage, which I have not put down; her earnings would be very considerable. ——(Mr. *Marshall.*)—To put in the total earnings, and divide it by six, would bring it to about the same thing as taking it at what I have now, and dividing by five.

12606. From whom did you get the information as to Peter Chance?—From his employer, from his wife, and I think the man himself, as to his own earnings.

12607. Edward Armsden is the next?—Fifty-two weeks at 9*s.*, 23*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; extra in harvest time, 2*l.*; earnings of wife and family, 12*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*

12608. The total income is said to be 35*l.* 16*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 37*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*

12609. The outgoings 6*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—Five pounds eleven shillings.

12610. The net income is stated to be 28*l.* 3*s.*?—I make it 32*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*

12611. The number of family is stated to be nine?—I make it eight.

12612. From whom did you get that information with regard to Armsden?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From his employers; he had several; and from the wife, and applying the scale to the children; there is a youth of 22, the eldest son, living with them; I have taken no account of him; there was a daughter, who died in the course of last year; her earnings would probably have been equal to her subsistence, and therefore I have not put them down.

12613. The next is Thomas Sherwood?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-six weeks, at 7*s.*, 16*l.* 2*s.*; 4*l.* 15*s.* during harvest and hay-time; and 1*l.* 19*s.*, the earnings of his family and wife.

12614. The total income here is said to be 20*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-two pounds sixteen shillings.

12615. The outgoings 2*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make them?—One pound ten shillings and ninepence.

12616. The net income here is said to be 17*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-one pounds five shillings and threepence.

12617. The number of the family is only one?—The number of the family is one and a quarter, because he married at Christmas last.

12618. From whom did you get that information, with regard to Sherwood?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) The information was derived from his employer, corrected by himself as to his earnings.

12619. The next is Edward Eaton?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Employed on the roads, 50 weeks at 5*s.*, and two weeks at 8*s.*, making 13*l.* 6*s.* the total earnings; the earnings of his family are 15*l.* 12*s.*, making a total of 28*l.* 18*s.*

12620. In this table it is 31*l.* 16*s.* and the outgoings 3*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—That is correct.

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12621. The net income is said to be 27 *l.* 18 *s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-five pounds.

12622. The number of family is stated to be four; what do you make it?—I make it three.

12623. From whom did you obtain the information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself, and the scale applied to the children.

12624. Thomas Brinkler is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) He is a farm-servant, 52 weeks employed 25 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.*, and 2 *l.* extra for harvest, making 27 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.*; the earnings of his wife and family are 31 *l.* 11 *s.* 5 *d.*

12625. The total income here is said to be 43 *l.* 12 *s.*; what do you make it?—Gleanings 14 *s.*, and 1 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* estimated value of garden ground, making a total of 61 *l.* 9 *s.* 7 *d.*

12626. The outgoings are stated to be 7 *l.* 18 *s.*; what do you make them?—I make the outgoings 6 *l.* 2 *s.*

12627. The net income is said to be 35 *l.* 14 *s.*; what do you make it?—Fifty-seven pounds seven shillings and sevenpence.

12628. The number of family is stated to be nine?—The number of the family is eight.

12629. From whom did you obtain information with regard to Brinkler?—From the man himself, and from his employer; the eldest son is taken out, a youth of 19; the scale was applied to the children, of whom I had no account.

12630. Henry Eyres is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-four weeks at 10 *s.*, 22 *l.*; earnings during hay-time and harvest, 6 *l.* 16 *s.*; earnings of wife and family 9 *l.* 2 *s.*; garden ground, 17 *s.* 6 *d.*

12631. The total income is said to be 28 *l.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-eight pounds fifteen shillings and sixpence.

12632. The outgoings are said to be 7 *l.* 18 *s.*; what do you make them?—Six pounds eighteen shillings.

12633. The net income is stated to be 20 *l.* 2 *s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-one pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence.

12634. The number of family is stated to be three?—I make it two.

12635. From whom did you obtain that information?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man, from the wife, and from his employer; from the wife only as to particulars of rent and so on, but not as to her earnings; it is to be understood that I had very little information from the women as to their earnings; this is the woman who said that she never told her earnings to her husband, and would not to any one else.

12636. William Sear is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-two weeks at 9 *s.*, 18 *l.* 18 *s.*; earnings during hay-time, drilling and harvest 7 *l.* 7 *s.*; earnings of his wife and family 20 *l.* 1 *s.* 4 *d.*

12637. The total income here is said to be 37 *l.* 2 *s.*; what do you make it?—Forty-six pounds nine shillings and a penny.

12638. The outgoings are said to be 7 *l.* 18 *s.*; what do you make them?—Eight pounds two shillings and eightpence.

12639. The net income is stated to be 29 *l.* 4 *s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-eight pounds six shillings and fivepence.

12640. The number of family is stated at eight?—Eight is correct.

12641. Where did you get your information about Sear?—From his employer and his wife, and the scale applied to the children.

12642. John Dale is the next?—John Dale, *alias* Martin Dale; 52 weeks at 9 *s.*, 23 *l.* 8 *s.*; 2 *l.* extra in harvest; this man is in possession of a cottage-right, keeps cows and pigs, and his income cannot be correctly ascertained; he is horse-keeper to his father, who is a farmer.

12643. The total income is stated at 25 *l.* 18 *s.*; what do you make it?—That is so far as regards his own earnings; but this cow-keeping and so on, which is a source of income, we can obtain no information upon.——(Mr. *Pearse.*) —He has a piece of ground which his father gives him up rent-free to grow green food for his cows; the information in this case is derived from the father of the man.

12644. The next is John Carr?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Twenty-two pounds fifteen shillings, his earnings, and 4 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.* from club; the earnings of his wife and family 7 *l.* 3 *s.*

12645. His total income is stated to be 31 *l.* 2 *s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-four pounds three shillings and sixpence.

12646. The

12646. The outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make them?—I make them 7*l.* 14*s.*

12647. The net income is said to be 24*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-six pounds nine shillings and sixpence.

12648. The number in family is stated to be three?—Three is correct.

12649. How did you get your information about Carr?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man himself, and from his employer.

12650. The next is William Gurney?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-six weeks at 10*s.*, 23*l.*; 5*l.* extra during harvest; the earnings of his family 8*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, and 9*s.* 6*d.* produce of garden ground.

12651. The total income here is said to be 31*l.* 2*s.*; what do you make it?—Thirty-six pounds sixteen shillings and fourpence.

12652. The outgoings are said to be 6*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make them?—I make them 7*l.* 6*s.*

12653. The net income is stated to be 24*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-nine pounds ten shillings and fourpence.

12654. The number of the family is stated to be three?—Three is correct.

12655. How did you get your information about Gurney?—From the man and from his employer; the scale must have been applied to the wife.

12656. The next is Thomas Sharp?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty-four weeks at 9*s.* 6*d.*, 20*l.* 18*s.*; during hay-time and harvest, 5*l.* 15*s.*; earnings of his family, 2*l.* 12*s.*

12657. The total income is stated to be 27*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 29*l.* 5*s.*

12658. The outgoings are said to be 7*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—Six pounds six shillings.

12659. The net income here is stated to be 19*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 22*l.* 19*s.*

12660. The number in family is stated to be four; what do you make it?—Two.

12661. Are there no children?—There is himself and his daughter, a dumb girl, who receives parish relief.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—He has another daughter living with him, who has a bastard child, she is 25; and he has a second daughter living with him a portion of the year, who also has a bastard child; they are excellent plaiters.

12662. During the time that they lived with the father you have reason to suppose that they contributed to his income?—I imagine they supported themselves.

12663. How did you get your information about Sharp?—From his employer, and from one of the daughters as to other particulars.

12664. R. Washington is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Forty weeks at 10*s.*, 20*l.*; four weeks at 9*s.*, 1*l.* 16*s.*; and 5*l.* 10*s.*, his earnings during harvest-time; 8*l.* 9*s.* the earnings of his family.

12665. The total income here is said to be 28*l.* 10*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 35*l.* 15*s.*

12666. The outgoings here are said to be 7*l.* 18*s.*; what do you make them?—I make them 6*l.* 12*s.*

12667. The net income here is said to be 20*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—Twenty-nine pounds three shillings.

12668. The number in family is stated to be three?—That is correct.

12669. How did you obtain your information about Washington?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) I received this information from his employer and himself, and applied the scale to the wife and child.

12670. The next is Thomas Harris?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Thirty-seven weeks at 8*s.*, 14*l.* 16*s.*; and 5*l.* 8*s.* in harvest; total, 20*l.* 4*s.*

12671. The total income here is stated to be 21*l.* 16*s.*, and the outgoings are said to be 2*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make them?—I make them 1*l.* 4*s.*

12672. The net income is said to be 19*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 19*l.*——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—He is an old man; I got the information from the man himself and from his employer.

12673. Robert Hillyard is the next?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) Robert Hillyard, 44 weeks at 9*s.*, 19*l.* 16*s.*; 7*l.* 3*s.* during hay-time and harvest; and the earnings of his family, 16*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

 12674. The

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12674. The total income here is said to be 51*l.* 12*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 43*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*

12675. The outgoings are 7*l.* 8*s.*; what do you make it?—That is correct.

12676. The net income is said to be 44*l.* 4*s.*; what do you make it?—I make it 36*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*

12677. The number of the family is said here to be nine; what do you make it?—It is six.

12678. That accounts for the difference in the sums?—I suppose it does.

12679. How did you get your information about Hillyard?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) From the man and his employer, and the scale applied to the children; but there are two boys of 19 and 17 who are not brought into the account at all; one of them is a sawyer.

Jovis, 31° *die Maii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Walker.
Mr. Liddell.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

George Pearse, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

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12680. Mr. *Fielden.*] YOU have spoken of the earnings of a considerable number of labourers in the table of 48 and in the table of 30, that were given in to the Committee by Mr. Turner; have you seen all those labourers whose earnings you have stated?—Not all of them.

12681. Has Mr. Marshall seen them?—No, not that I am aware of; I stated yesterday, that a great deal of my information was obtained from their employers.

12682. Does either Mr. Marshall or you know all of those labourers?—I do not personally.

12683. Does Mr. Marshall?—I do not know.

12684. The information conveyed to the Committee in your tables, is what you have received yourself, and the calculations have been made by Mr. Marshall; is it so?—I furnished him with the data of the calculations.

12685. But the information as to the earnings is obtained by yourself?—Yes, and I am solely responsible for it.

12686. Can you speak to the character of the men whose earnings and income you have stated, as to morality, industry and management of their affairs in life; can you give information upon that head?—Certainly not.

12687. In no case?—I would rather not.

12688. (To Mr. *Marshall.*) Can you speak to the characters of these men?—No; there are very few of those men that are paupers; I know nothing of men personally beyond relieving them, and any inquiry that I might have considered it necessary at that time to make for the board of guardians; but as to their personal character, there is not one in ten that I know any thing of.—(Mr. *Pearse.*)—There are some few of them whose characters I know; some that I employ.

12689. Will you state the individual characters of any of those labourers, as far as you know them?—I would not mind looking over the list, and, if there is a particular man whose character I know, stating it, but the evidence is published, and therefore I should feel a difficulty in saying any thing against their character, for it has already been made a handle of against me; I think the very selection in this table is invidious.

12690. Are you aware that the table that was put in by Mr. Turner, purported to be a table stating the incomes of the whole of the labourers in the parish of Westoning, as far as he had been able to collect that information, without any reference to character at all?—I believe it had no reference to character; I never imagined that it had.

12691. I gave Mr. Turner instructions to give an account of the earnings of different labourers in one whole parish, and I directed him to take the parish of Westoning, that being smaller than many of the other parishes; when his tables come

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come under your survey, it is not necessary that any allusion should be made to character at all; but I wish to ascertain from you what are the characters of those men whose earnings you have given in in the tables you put in yesterday, and for that purpose I will go over the names one by one, in order that you may state whether you know any thing against the characters of those individuals as I read them over?—Then I should decline answering that, because I cannot speak of my own knowledge, and so much is mere rumour.

12692. Where the characters of the men are known to be good, if there be any such, would you have any objection to state that?—Where I have a knowledge of their characters I should not hesitate to say; the greater part of the people in the table I merely know by name in making this inquiry.——(Mr. *Marshall.*)—If there are any of them that I know any thing favourably about, I should have great pleasure in stating it.——(Mr. *Pearse.*)—My brother, who is the clergyman of the parish, I have heard speak favourably of certain persons in the parish, but I have myself no knowledge of them.

12693. Will you look over the names, and state those whom you have heard favourably spoken of?—I can point to one, Richard Pedder; William Sear I know, and John Dale I know, *alias* Martindale, Jacob Bonner.

12694. *Chairman.*] Those are persons whom you have heard well spoken of?—Yes, and whom I know; and Benjamin Cox, James Walton, Thomas Odell, John Wilsted, and Job Sherwood; I believe those are all.

12695. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is that in the table of 48?—Yes.

12696. Will you take the table of 30?—I have been through that; I took the names in the first instance from that, and then passed to the 48 list; John Dale was the last in the table of 30; there is another man whom I see in the table of 30, whom I have known some time, and who bears a good character, Thomas Sharpe.

12697. That makes four you speak to in the table of 30?—It does.

12698. *Chairman.*] Are any of those paupers?—(Mr. *Marshall.*) No, they are not.

12699. Mr. *Fielden.*] Those are the names of the parties whose characters you have heard favourably spoken of?—(Mr. *Pearse.*) Yes, and all of them I know.

12700. I find a disparity in the number of the family as given in by you, and given in by Mr. Turner; John Carter is stated by you to have four in family, and by Mr. Turner, he is stated to have five; do you know which is correct?—I took the information of the woman as to her family; she had an infant, who died lately; I do not know what its age was, but that was her information to me; in every case I endeavoured to impress upon the people that my inquiry was as to 1837.

12701. Joseph Chew is stated by Mr. Turner to have three, and by you, two children?—I understand that she had a still-born child last year.

12702. Did you give the number of Peter Bonner's family?—The account I received from the woman herself was, that she had seven children; herself and her husband would make nine in the family. No, the oldest daughter was married last year, that would leave six at home, and the man and his wife, making altogether eight.

12703. Benjamin Cox you state as having eight in the family, and Mr. Turner states him as having nine; can you account for that?—Yes, I have an account of eight in the family, including the father and mother; the son John is a separate case in the tables; he may be considered as a part of their household, and he lives with them, and therefore he might have been included in Mr. Turner's table.

12704. James Nield you state has three in family, but Mr. Turner states five; will you explain that?—I gave an account of three, the father and two children; he has a child born to him a quarter of a year old; he is a widower now; I do not know when he lost his wife, but this is the account he gave me of his family last year; it consisted of three persons, himself, his son William, a daughter Hannah; he has a son who lives away from him, I believe, in the service of Mr. Aldridge there.

12705. Richard Short you stated to have four in family, and Mr. Turner states the family to be five?—They have a son, Jesse, who lives with them, and his is a separate case; his is one of the cases mentioned in the 48 list; I have an account only of two daughters living at home with them.

12706. What is the account of James Brinkley's family?—That is a case that I could not undertake to speak to; I could not state the particulars of the man's earnings.

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12707. Here is a sum of 16*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* given?—I have obtained partial information only.

12708. Did you inquire the number of his family?—I believe I did; four children with himself and his wife, making six; if there is any variation it may arise from this circumstance, that the mother-in-law lives with them.

12709. Job Sherwood you state to be seven in the family; Mr. Turner's table states eight; can you account for that?—I have an account of six children here and himself, making seven; but his wife's sister lives with him, and I understand that he has had a child by her, and it may be that from shame he withheld that; but I do not know how that may be; but if there is any variation it may arise out of that; but this is the account he gave me.

12710. George King in the table of 30, you state to be six in family, and Mr. Turner's table states eight?—She gave me an account of four in the family; there is herself and her husband, making six altogether; that is all I have an account of.

12711. Joseph Bunker, Mr. Turner states to be seven in the family; you state six?—I have an account here of four children, the man and wife making six.

12712. Have you the names of the children in that case?—Yes; Joseph 16, Thomas six, Mary four, and Eliza one.

12713. William Gazelee you state to be five in family, and Mr. Turner's table states six; can you account for that?—I have an account of three children, and three only, with a man and his wife, making five altogether.

12714. Did you receive that information from Gazelee?—Not knowing his person before, I am doubtful whether I saw him, or whether I got the information from his wife, but from one or the other.

12715. William Hyde's case; Mr. Turner gives nine as the family in his table, and you have six; how are the three to be accounted for?—I have an account of four children living at home with him, independent of a married daughter, who lives with them; I have taken no account of her. I can give the names of the children.

12716. Are there any children besides the married daughter and those you have accounted for?—I am not aware of that.

12717. Did you receive the information from Hyde?—I did; or from his wife.

12718. Joseph Gurney is stated to be one by you, and two by Mr. Turner; what does Gurney's family consist of?—I have a note here that he was unmarried in 1837; he married at Christmas; that was his information to me; he lived at home with his mother before, and at Christmas he married; and upon his marrying he removed to Westoning.

12719. William Bunyan you have stated to have seven in the family, and Mr. Turner states him to have eight?—I have an account of four children, the man and his wife.

12720. What is the age of the oldest child?—A girl of 10; and the youngest, William, three.

12721. Has he had a child since?—I do not know.

12722. *Chairman.* (To Mr. *Turner.*)] Do you happen to know that?—He has had a child since.

12723. Mr. *Fielden.* (To Mr. *Pearse.*)] Peter Chance you have stated to have five in his family, and Mr. Turner states him to have six?—I have an account of three children, with the man and his wife.

12724. What is the age of the youngest?—A year old, and the eldest six; there is a girl living there, a bastard child born before marriage.

12725. That child has of course to be kept by somebody?—Yes, but she is able to keep herself; I gave that information yesterday, and if she were not, she would be dependent upon Harlington; those parties were married before 1834, when the Act passed.

12726. Edward Armsden you state to have a family of eight, and Mr. Turner nine?—That may be accounted for; he lost a daughter of nine; I had an account of seven in the family; I have given an account of only six; I mentioned yesterday, that William, aged 22, I had no account of at all; I have thrown him out of the list; and, again, they lost a daughter in Midsummer last year, a girl aged 16; I begin with a girl of 14, and end with Mary, aged one, which makes eight in the family.

12727. Edward Heaton; there is a difference of one between your table and Mr. Turner's; can you say how that arises?—He gave me an account of the girl

girl of 17 and a boy of 14 living with him; he has two or three sons, I think John and Joseph Heaton; they may live with him, but they are separate cases.

12728. Henry Eyres; there is a difference of one between your table and Mr. Turner's?—Both the man and the woman say they never were applied to for any information at all; they have a child, but he is apprenticed to a tailor at Ampthill; he is a cripple, and forms no part of the family; they have no child at home.

12729. Thomas Sharpe; what is the number of his family?—He has a deaf and dumb daughter; he has two other daughters, who are not always living at home with him, only occasionally; one is 25 years old and the other 30; they both have bastard children; he would be the grandfather of those children.

12730. What is the number of those children, as they live together?—There is one daughter now at home with him, who has a child five or six years old; then there is this deaf and dumb daughter, who is dependent upon him, but he receives some relief for that child; that child is able to do something towards her maintenance, and the man till the last Christmas was in constant work at 9*s.* a week.

12731. Then the number together are four under the same roof?—I suppose so at this time, but they are constantly changing; one daughter is at home for some time, and then she goes out; they are very ill-conditioned girls.

12732. You have given in the number of two?—Yes.

12733. In Robert Hillyard's case there was an explanation yesterday of the difference between six and nine?—I gave an account of four children, himself and his wife; the two elder ones I have no account of; they are emancipated; one of them, the eldest, is a sawyer; the second is 17 years of age; I could not learn any particulars of him; I do not know whether he is at home.

12734. They are no charge to him?—They are no charge to him.

12735. I see there is a considerable difference in the sums for harvest between the table given in by Mr. Turner and your table; Mr. Turner states the sums in his table as additional for harvest; are the sums you have given in your tables sums in addition to their usual wages, or the entire sums earned during harvest-time?—The entire sums earned, excepting two or three cases of men employed by Miss Trevor; their earnings were given to me blended with their hay-time and harvest, and I found a difficulty in distinguishing them; but in the generality of cases the hay-time and harvest wages were distinguished from the ordinary wages.

12736. The sums which you have given embrace the whole time of hay-time and harvest?—Yes.

12737. How many weeks were the men employed at harvest in the year 1837?—That would vary much, according to the man's occupation; some men have more harvest-work than others, but four weeks is the general engagement; that is what is called the harvest month; the men are engaged for a month.

12738. Is your calculation based on the calculation of four weeks for harvest, or is it the actual sum they received in the year 1837?—According to their engagements during the harvest-time; I believe it is limited to the month in almost every case; I do not know an exception.

12739. If the month's wages were given in connexion with the additional sum for harvest, there would not be so great a disparity between Mr. Turner's table and yours?—Probably not; but I have not made the comparison between Mr. Turner's table and my own; I had not an opportunity.

12740. Suppose a man was receiving 9*s.* a week for a month, that would be 36*s.* a month; and the 2*l.* allowed by Mr. Turner for harvest month would make 3*l.* 16*s.*; what do you in your table state to be the amount?—I have taken the harvest month separately, and it would be 3*l.* 15*s.*

12741. Then there would be 1*s.* difference between Mr. Turner's statement and yours?—Yes, in that case; some are engaged at 4*l.* a month, and some at 35*s.*; you are aware that the hay-time is also distinguished.

12742. Does your calculation include the hay-time as well as the harvest?—Where there has been an increase of wages at hay-time.

12743. What is the increase of wages in hay-time?—It varies very much indeed; some men are employed as mowers throughout the season, and they earn a great deal more; and others are employed as haymakers; and, perhaps, only occasionally; I have taken their earnings as they are reported to me.

12744. How much more will they earn, if they are employed at mowing?—

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That would depend upon what the farmers paid them; some would pay them 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre, and some 3*s.*; that varies in Westoning parish.

12745. What will a good workman mow a day in the parish of Westoning?—A man sticking well to his work would mow an acre and a quarter, with favourable weather; I had frequently that quantity mowed for me in a day when I let it.

12746. Has that price of mowing been advanced or reduced, or is it the same as it was in 1834?—I am not aware of any difference.

12747. Do you know, so as to be able to speak of it, whether there has been a difference made in the wages paid for mowing since 1834?—I am informed not, in Westoning.

12748. From whom did you receive that information; from a labourer, or from an employer of labourers?—From an employer of labourers; I can give you the wages paid by each farmer.

12749. Can you refer to that now?—No, I have left my memorandum at home; I have selected for my purpose the principal rate-payer in the place, and the principal occupier, and he told me—but I am speaking now only from recollection—that he paid 3*s.* an acre for mowing; and I am satisfied that that was the price.

12750. In the year 1837?—Yes.

12751. Did you make inquiry what he paid in 1834?—I understood him that there was no variation as to that.

12752. Who is the principal occupier?—A gentleman of the name of Edmund Sears.

12753. Did you make inquiry of that gentleman as to the wages paid for task-work?—Yes, I did.

12754. What was the price for draining in 1837 and in 1834?—I do not know; I have not my memoranda to refer to, and I would rather not commit myself; I do not think he has had any done by the great; there has been so little work of that kind done in Westoning, that it amounts almost to nothing; they expecting an inclosure, it suspends all improvements of a permanent nature.

12755. Have you not the memoranda here, so as to be able to speak to the difference in the prices of task-work?—I put in the answers to questions which I put to different farmers; that contains it.

12756. Does it include threshing, draining, wheat-hoeing, bean-setting, hedging, ditching and mowing?—Yes, it does.

12757. Is that a table of the prices generally paid throughout the Ampthill Union, or the prices of some one individual?—I cannot speak to that; I do not know the practice of the Ampthill Union; I spoke of those being the prices in Westoning; I was speaking locally.

12758. Of one or more farmers in that parish?—Of the wages generally paid by the farmers.

12759. During the year 1837, were any of the labourers whom you have in your tables employed on task-work?—Yes, a good many.

12760. And have you taken the amount of their earnings at what they receive for day-wages and task-work collectively?—I have taken the report of their employers, and from themselves, and they have given a sort of average; I have no doubt that their earnings have been more considerable when they have been at task-work; but it is difficult for them to carry their recollection back to the precise employment in which they were engaged in 1837; one fortnight, perhaps, threshing, and another fortnight bean-setting, and so on.

12761. Do you believe that the statement contained in that table is a near approximation to the truth, as to the labourers comprised in that table?—I have endeavoured to do it most conscientiously; I understood that I possessed the full confidence of the Committee in making that report, and I did it to the best of my ability, and I understood that the Committee would abide by that report; I was most anxious that it should be according to the truth, and such a table as might be relied upon; there may be errors, as I said when I first put in those tables.

12762. Can you give any opinion, as to whether the earnings of the different labourers is any fair criterion of the earnings of the labourers generally in Bedfordshire?—I think a very fair criterion.

12763. Are any of the families comprised in that table employed on lace-making?—I think there are only two families employed in that way, which I have given an account of.

12764. Can you name them from recollection?—Mrs. Hyde was one of them.

12765. In a former part of your evidence you have stated that the families do not earn so much at lace-making as at straw-plaiting?—I do not suppose they do, by one-half.

12766. Then when the families are employed at lace-making, their income would be less than when they are employed in straw-plaiting?—Clearly so; I can call to mind one family; Jacob Bonner's children were brought up to the lace-pillow, and about a year and a half ago they were taken from their employment at the lace-pillow, and put to straw-plait, and therefore the earnings are given below the scale; I did not think it right to apply the scale, and the reason for that was (and it bears a little upon your question), that her husband being away from her, and wishing to draw her money in quicker time than she could do by the sale of work at the lace-pillow, she taught her children the straw-plait, because she could convert her work more quickly into money.

12767. Is he in the table of 30 labourers?—No, in the table of 48; he is an excellent man in character, but overwhelmed with a large family.

12768. Would there be any difficulty in Jacob Bonner obtaining straw-plait for his family?—They are all employed in straw-plaiting, and in the receipt of earnings, but the earnings I gave an account of fall short of the scale, and for the reason I have given, that they were brought up to the lace-pillow.

12769. Where labourers and their families are employed in entirely agricultural pursuits, and where the wages are the same to the men as those paid in the parish of Westoning, the families would not be so well off in those places as they are in Westoning, would they, where the straw-plait did not prevail, and where agricultural labour formed all the labour of the parish?—Where there was not such profitable employment for the families, of course they would not be so well off.

12770. Are there many parishes that you are acquainted with where there is no such thing as straw-plaiting for the wives and daughters of the labourers?—I dare say there are several parishes in the Ampthill Union where the straw-plait does not prevail to the same extent.

12771. But where they have not the straw-plait, they have the lace-making?—Yes.

12772. Are you acquainted with Oxfordshire at all?—Not so as to speak to the employment of the people there at all.

12773. In preparing those tables had you recourse to the men, to their employers, and to their wives, to obtain the information?—Not to the men, in all cases.

12774. But in many of the cases?—In the majority.

12775. Were there any other persons present upon the occasion, besides the man and his wife and the employer, on those occasions?—I did not visit at their houses after the Saturday; I declined visiting their houses again, but I sent to the men to attend me at the public-house at Westoning, and a farmer was present with me there, I believe, the whole time.

12776. Was the farmer there present the farmer who employed the labourers in every case?—No, only one farmer attended me during the time of examination; I went down at six o'clock in the evening, after the men had left their work, and then I sent for them, a few at a time, till I got through the lists, and this farmer was with me, I believe, the whole time that I was examining those persons.

12777. Was that the only farmer that you had present when you took the earnings of the different labourers?—No other; the publican himself might have been occasionally in the room.

12778. Did that farmer employ all the labourers from whom you sought information?—No, only a portion; he is not a very large occupier, but he is a man of respectability.

12779. You stated, yesterday, that in a great many cases you obtained the information upon which you have founded your tables from the farmer who employed the man, from the man himself, or from his wife?—It was in that way collected,

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collected, and I had returns from most of the farmers as to the people they did employ, the period of service, and the amount of wages paid, and I have those returns by me.

12780. *Chairman.*] It is from those returns you give this information?—Yes; I have them not at hand, but I can produce them in a short time.

12781. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you give the name of the labourer to the farmer who employed him, in order to get at his earnings?—No; I will explain to you how I proceeded; I sent to all the people in the neighbourhood who were likely to employ Westoning men, to furnish me with the statement of the period of their service, and the amount of wages paid in 1837; before I renewed my inquiries, I wished to be provided with that information; I could not get it from all the farmers; it enabled me sometimes to supply a gap, and it gave me a clue to inquiries.

12782. Who was the farmer that you had present at the public-house, when you took down the information from the labourers?—Mr. William Smith.

12783. Is he a farmer in Westoning?—He is; he lives in the village of Westoning.

12784. Is he a large farmer?—He is not a very large occupier.

12785. Is he a man in whom you have confidence, as being able to give you information as to the rate of wages there?—I selected him because I thought I could rely upon his statement, as he could read and write.

12786. You thought you could rely more upon the statement of Mr. Smith than any other farmer in Westoning?—Why, I knew more of the man; he is my brother's tenant, in short.

12787. *Chairman.*] You thought, from your acquaintance with him, that he would be more likely to give you unreserved information?—That he would be more useful to me; and he has been useful in collecting information.

12788. Mr. *Fielden.*] Mr. Bennett, you will have seen from his evidence, came up here and contradicted the statement of a labourer whose earnings had been given to him, and stated his earnings to be higher than the man did himself; are you aware whether those labourers have been influenced in any way, to state their earnings higher than they were actually receiving?—Certainly not; the difficulty certainly was to get information from them: there is a long tale untold.

12789. You think, from the men themselves, and from Mr. Smith, and from your own knowledge, that you have given correct information to the Committee as to the income of those labourers?—I have endeavoured to do it most conscientiously, dropping all partisanship.

12790. You have no doubt that you have arrived at calculations which approximate to the truth?—I hope I have; and I believe I have very nearly, if not completely so.

12791. There is a considerable difference between the family earnings, as stated by you and those stated by Mr. Turner, in his tables, in most cases; have you adopted the scale, in inquiring into the family earnings, where they are employed on straw-plaiting?—Yes.

12792. You have, in some instances, given in your table an account of the income from gleaning; was the time of any of the families, who were employed on straw-plaiting, given credit for, when they were receiving income from gleaning?—I cannot call to mind any one instance, but the gleaning occupied, I understood, a very short time, and most of the families, who were good plaiters, were more profitably employed as plaiters.

12793. But they could not be employed at the two descriptions of work at the same time?—No, clearly not, but I believe there has been a deduction for that time, but the gleanings are exceedingly small.

12794. The gleanings are not very large sums, but some time must be taken in earning those sums, must there not?—Surely.

12795. In adopting the scale, in order to draw up your table, you have given the amount they can earn, according to that scale, for the year?—For only a portion of the year; I have deducted a twelfth, which I think will cover any little time they might be engaged in gleaning.

12796. Then your table embraces only 11 months' labour, according to that scale?—Yes. Whenever the scale has been applied, I have made a deduction from all of a twelfth; it may have been omitted, from the hurried way in

in which I have prepared those tables; if there be an error I should be very glad to have an opportunity of correcting it; I cannot pledge myself to their perfect accuracy.

12797. *Chairman.*] You deducted one-twelfth, you said, for occasional illness and absence from work?—Yes.

12798. Mr. *Fielden.*] And you think that is sufficient to cover the time employed in gleaning?—Supposing the time occupied in gleaning is not distinguished from the time occupied in straw-plaiting, that would be amply sufficient to cover it; but I do not think there is any account of a family gleaning more than a bushel and a half; it was a very bad gleaning in Westoning last year; that is the information I received.

12799. You have given a return from the Woburn Union of the families that have gone to the north; there are the names of nine persons at the end of the return you have sent in; are those the only individuals that have migrated from the Woburn Union to the north?—They are all who have been assisted by the board to migrate; others have migrated voluntarily, I believe.

12800. Have you made examination and research sufficient to satisfy yourself that those are all that migrated under the sanction of the board of guardians?—I have been obliged to rely entirely upon the clerk of the union in preparing those papers; I have no doubt of his accuracy; he is a very careful man, but I have looked them over, and I do not see any omission.

12801. Have you taken the pains to look over them, in order to detect any omission, if there had been any?—I have, with that view.

12802. You are satisfied that those are the only cases which have been sent from the Woburn Union into the manufacturing districts?—I dare say it is correct.

12803. You gave an account of those that returned and those that remain?—Yes.

12804. Can you state any families that have gone of their own accord from the Woburn Union?—A man of the name of Coleman went with his family; his name is mentioned there; I think he went voluntarily, and fell into distress; an application was made to the board for assistance, and a remittance was made to him; but I do not know how he was employed; he was brought up as a baker, but whether he or any part of his family were employed in the manufactories I cannot say; the man has since returned, and has been in the workhouse for some time, and I understand on Tuesday he meant to leave it.

12805. Coleman went of his own accord, without any inducement on the part of the board to prevail on him to go?—I believe no assistance was afforded him by the board to prevail on him to go.

12806. Do you know the name of any other?—No; but there may have been many such, without my knowledge; I know a man in my own parish who was most anxious to go, who made application, and I should have assisted him in going, but I found it turned out so badly in one case, that I declined giving him assistance.

12807. What case are you referring to, in which it turned out so badly?—The case I have before mentioned, Samuel Chance.

12808. Samuel Chance is one of the migrants who have returned?—Yes.

12809. Do you know the number of family that Samuel Chance had?—I do not; I meant to see the man before I came up, but I have not had an opportunity; but I think there were five in the family; he was only partly assisted by the board; there was a subscription raised in the parish to help him, and he was supplied with bedding and clothing, and rigged out, as we could do it amongst ourselves.

12810. You do not know what were the ages of his children?—No, I cannot state that; but I could ascertain that, if it were an object; I believe there was a return made in January last of all the people who migrated; I find this notation: "Select Committee on the Poor Law Amendment Act. Ordered,—That there be laid before this Committee a return of the numbers, and names and residences, and the number of children, of migrants who have removed into the manufacturing districts under the sanction of the Poor Law Commissioners; and the parishes from which the migrants were removed, together with their income previous to removal and their present income, as far as they can be ascertained."

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12811. You made a return from the Woburn Union, pursuant to that order?—Yes; I find added to that, "Forms of engagement with employers on behalf of migrants, and other official papers connected with migration may be promptly supplied by Mr. Chadwick;" that was my own information when those papers passed through my hands.

12812. How could Mr. Chadwick furnish those engagements?—Because the agent was appointed by the Poor Law Commissioners, and there were certain printed forms to be filled up before engagements were completed.

12813. Did you send those filled-up forms to the agent from the Woburn Union?—It was done in Chance's case, and, I believe, in every other on which the board gave assistance.

12814. Did you keep any copy yourself?—I do not find any copy amongst our papers; a person who was an agent in the business can give me no account; he cannot speak to the engagements which were made.

12815. Is that Mr. Langston?—It is.

12816. But you have furnished those contracts to the Poor Law Commissioners?—No; we were supplied with the forms by the Poor Law Commissioners or the agent, and an engagement was entered into in every case, I believe, of parties, assisted by the board.

12817. But when you had filled up those forms, what did you do with them?—The form was sent, I believe, to the agent; I rather think the engagements when formed passed through Mr. Langston's hands; he was the medium of communication in some kind of way; I do not think we communicated directly, not in every instance certainly, with the migration agent.

12818. Did Mr. Langston transmit those forms filled up to the migration agent in Manchester?—That I believe to have been the case.

12819. Of that you have no doubt?—That is my impression.

12820. Then, in the case of Samuel Chance, can you tell what was the amount of his earnings before he went to the north, and what were the number of his children and their ages?—I said before that I cannot speak positively to the amount of his family, nor can I as to the amount of his earnings before he went; but he was wretchedly off.

12821. Do you know his family?—I do.

12822. How many children has he?—I cannot say; if you will furnish me with a memorandum of the items that you wish information upon, I will furnish that information.

12823. Do you know the ages of the children?—I cannot state; but they were of such ages that we understood two or three at least would be employed in the factories.

12824. And you are aware that none would be employed in the factories that were not nine years old?—That I am aware of.

12825. And you think three were of an age suitable to go into the factories?—I am convinced that there were two, and I think three; but a sister of Chance's went with him, who it was considered was likely to get employment in the factories.

12826. Have you the order you received from the Committee-clerk, dated the 18th May?—The clerk of the Woburn Union has it.

12827. This is a return which has been sent up in pursuance of that order?—It is.

12828. This return does not contain the ages of the different migrants who were sent into the north under the direction of the board of guardians?—It was presumed, I have no doubt, by the clerk, that all the information would be supplied by answering the order of December last of the Poor Law Committee; but if there is any thing incomplete, I will take care that it be supplied. As to the engagement made in Chance's case, who did not long remain at the factories, it was made with some manufacturer at Baccup, in Rochdale; I could not call to mind the name on the former day.

12829. *Chairman.*] Was that made under the sanction of the migration agent, acting under the authority of the Poor Law Commissioners?—It was; but we sent an agent.

12830. Was not that a private concern of your own?—Yes, acting on behalf of two unions, merely to form the engagements.

12831. Mr. *Fielden.*] In the return you have sent in pursuance of the order

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of the 18th of May, I see the name of Samuel Chance, wife and four children, in 1836; there is not the date given when he went, or the ages of his children; can that information be supplied by the clerk of the Woburn Union?—I think it can be easily procured.

12832. Will you endeavour to procure that information relative to Chance?—When I go into the country I will.

12833. I find another person of the name of William Underwood, with a wife and six children; do you know Underwood, or any thing about his children?—No, he is a Toddington man; I remember his application to go.

12834. He is here entered as one who returned in 1836?—I believe he returned; a boy belonging to our parish went with him, and he returned at the same time.

12835. You are not able to speak to the ages of any of his children?—No.

12836. Can you furnish that information to the Committee?—I have no doubt I can.

12837. The name of James Cole, another migrant, is mentioned in this return; there is nothing said about his family; but he has not returned again to the parish; do you know any thing of him?—I think he is an orphan; two or three orphans accompanied this man Underwood when he migrated, and Cole was one, and a boy of the name of Waters was another.

12838. Samuel Waters?—Yes.

12839. Were there any other accompanied Underwood?—I think there was a third, but I do not recollect his name.

12840. Here are three names, John Harris, William Hart and John Sturman; do you know whether Harris, Hart or Sturman accompanied Underwood?—I cannot say.

12841. You think that there was another besides Cole and Waters who did accompany him?—I think so.

12842. Can you get the information relative to Underwood, and those children who accompanied him, and transmit it to this Committee?—I have no doubt I can; the clerk will procure it.

12843. Were those children orphans?—I think three of them were.

12844. Do you know that those orphans have returned to the Union of Woburn?—One has.

12845. Which of them?—Waters.

12846. Do you know Waters?—I do.

12847. What is his age?—I think he is about 16 or 17; he was lately in the workhouse.

12848. Have you seen him since he returned?—I saw him very lately, when he was in the workhouse.

12849. Did he tell you where he had been, and how he had been employed, during his absence from Woburn?—Yes, but I cannot call to mind the information he gave me; though he is a Harlington youth, he is not living there.

12850. There is another migrant here mentioned of the name of Mary Whitbread; do you know Mary Whitbread?—No, I do not recollect her; I have no doubt that I have seen her at the board, but I cannot call to mind.

12851. Do you know whether she has returned to the union again?—I do not know myself; the return to the order states those who have returned.

12852. This return states that she has not?—Then I take it for granted that she has not.

12853. Do you know the ages of Mary Whitbread's children?—No.

12854. Can that information be procured?—If it is comprehended in the order to the clerk it will be answered.

12855. Here was another migrant of the name of Ann Odell; you have before stated that Ann Odell and her family have returned to the union?—Yes.

12856. And that she is now in the union workhouse as nurse; do you know the names and ages of Ann Odell's children?—I do not.

12857. The number of children in this return is stated to have been six at the time of her migration; can you give any opinion as to the ages that those children would be?—The two elder ones, I should think, might have been about 14 or 15 when they went, but I really do not know with any certainty; but when she returned she was received into the workhouse, and the two elder girls have been placed out in service since.

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12858. How many would there be of an age to go into the factories when they went into the north?—That I cannot speak to.

12859. Have you seen those children?—I have, in common with other children; I do not know them.

12860. There being six children, there must be two or three of them at least of an age to go into the factories?—Yes.

12861. And there might have been four?—Yes.

12862. The earnings of Ann Odell you have not given in this return before she went into the north; do you know where she went to?—I think there are some letters referring to her particular case, and from her employers; if I am allowed to look, I think I can give fuller information; I think I put a letter into your hands yesterday as to her employment.

12863. Was she sent to Derby?—Yes, to Messrs. Bridgett & Co.

12864. Do you know the wages she received for her family?—I cannot speak to it. I perceive, with respect to Chance's family, it is stated here that the contract was made for that family by Mr. Muggeridge, and that it was for 1*l.* 5*s.* per week, and that they were sent to Olding & Co., Baccup, Lancashire. It is further added, that they did not all go to the same master.

12865. Have you had information that they were separated?—I do not remember any thing about it.

12866. What were Ann Odell's children employed on before she migrated to the north?—I do not know; but looking to the woman's standing, I should think she brought them up to lace-making; she herself was a lace-maker. I believe that the parish she belonged to were at that time principally lace-making; plaiting is of modern introduction.

12867. Do you know on what employment Mary Whitbread's children were engaged before she went to the north?—No, I do not.

12868. Do you know on what employment William Underwood's children were engaged?—Probably plaiting; I cannot speak with certainty.

12869. Can you speak with certainty as to the employment of Chance's children before they went to the north?—Hedge-breaking; they were a most mischievous family.

12870. They could not earn much at hedge-breaking?—I do not know; they got their supply of fuel from it.

12871. Could they sell it?—No; they could consume it.

12872. Did you give any statement of these migrants to the parties acting under the Poor Law Commissioners when those families were sent?—I think not; I do not think there was any application; I know that the man was employed in the gravel-pit at the time by the surveyor; he was a very ill-conditioned man.

12873. Could not Samuel Chance's family have been employed at straw-plaiting?—Yes.

12874. Why were they not?—They probably were occasionally, but they were not kept to it; I have mentioned before that the woman was a very bad manager.

12875. Did you think that by getting them into the factories in the north you would get them under better task-masters?—There is no doubt that we did very well for them; the woman came home in order to induce other children to go back with her; and I had it from the man, that up to a certain point they were doing very well, and the children were put to school, and were very happy and comfortable, and it was with great reluctance that they returned; that was his information to me; I met him on the road as he was returning.

12876. What was the reason for his returning?—Because there was no work; the mill where the family was employed has been stopped.

12877. I find that the income of Samuel Chance and his family is stated in Mr. Muggeridge's return to have been 12*s.* 6*d.* a week before their migration, and there were seven in the family; do you believe that to be true?—It very likely was that; but I should think that included the sister of Samuel Chance, who was an adult, or nearly so.

12878. What could Samuel Chance earn himself at that time?—Probably not more than 8*s.* a week.

12879. What would the five children earn, and the wife?—I cannot say; I mentioned before that there was no discipline observed at home.

12880. William Underwood, I find, is stated in Mr. Muggeridge's return as having

having a family of eight, six of them children, and their weekly income is stated at 14*s.*; do you know whether that is correct?—I do not.

12881. Ann Odell, whom you know, is in Mr. Muggeridge's return given as a family, six of them being children, and their income was 2*s.* a week; do you know whether that is correct?—That must be incorrect, upon the very face of it.

12882. Mary Whitbread, in Mr. Muggeridge's return, is given as being a family of five, four of them children, and their weekly income is 3*s.* 6*d.* a week; do you think that is correct?—I am sure it is incorrect in those cases; I know that parish relief was given to a considerable extent.

12883. Do you believe that no such returns as those have been made by the clerk of the Woburn Union?—I cannot say; he may have received orders for returns which I am not acquainted with.

12884. But here is a return to this Committee, made by Mr. Muggeridge, in which those items are inserted opposite those names; do you believe that Mr. Muggeridge has made a return such as was furnished by the clerk of the Woburn Union or not?—I really cannot say on what data this return was made.

12885. Mr. Muggeridge has had this return, he states, either from the clerk of the board of guardians or from some of the parish officers?—It is very possible that our clerk may have furnished information with which I may not be acquainted.

12886. *Chairman.*] Is it not also possible that the parish officers may furnish information with which you are not acquainted?—Yes; I will explain how the circumstances of those families may be known; a person was employed on behalf of the Ampthill and Woburn Unions, to go into the north and see whether there was any opening for the employment of certain families there, and that person gave us information; and in treating with the employers there, it is very possible that he may have given some statements of individual families, and this may have arisen from that.

12887. Mr. *Fielden.*] Mr. Langston was employed by the authorities of the Ampthill Union and the Woburn Union to go down into the north?—He was; we joined the Ampthill Union in paying his expenses of going down, and appointed him, in fact.

12888. Then what Mr. Langston did he did under the inspection and superintendence of the boards of guardians of the two unions of Ampthill and Woburn, did he not?—His movements had the sanction of those boards.

12889. Nothing that was done by Mr. Langston was done without the approval of the boards of guardians?—What he reported to our board met with its sanction.

12890. Therefore no blame can be thrown upon Mr. Langston, if any blame be necessary to be thrown upon any party?—I am not aware that any attached to him; he performed his duty very well.

12891. From the evidence you have given before this Committee, as to what children can earn at straw-plaiting, do you think the board of guardians of the Woburn Union acted with kindness towards those widows, Whitbread and Odell, in sending them from the Woburn Union to the north, to the factories, when employment might have been obtained for them in straw-plaiting in the place where they resided?—I must confine my answer to one family; the family of the Odell's were not straw-plaiters, and, therefore, they would not have the advantage with respect to family earnings that those brought up to straw-plaiting would have; and, with respect to Mrs. Whitbread, there is no proof that we acted otherwise than kindly to her, for she never returned, and I presume that she liked her engagement.

12892. But upon this return of Mr. Muggeridge, there is a statement made that the income of that family was 2*s.* 6*d.* a week; have you not been making it out clearly before this Committee, that a family of the number of Mary Whitbread and her children might earn a much larger sum than that?—Certainly they would, if brought up to the straw-plaiting.

12893. In the straw-plait, you have said, there is always an abundance of employment?—No doubt.

12894. Could not those families have turned to straw-plaiting, instead of going to the factories in the north?—They might have done so, if it had been the will of the parent.

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12895. But, instead of setting them to straw-plaiting, did you think it your duty to send those children to the north, and to send an agent to find work for them there?—We thought, certainly, that we were forwarding their interest in sending them; we did not, in any case, send them without obtaining an engagement for them beforehand, and providing for their comfort, which, again, would be attended to by the migration agent on the spot.

12896. You have taken care that the attention which you provided should be paid to them, was paid to them?—We have had occasional reports of those families falling into distress and sickness, and we have continually sent relief down, when any little emergency has occurred.

12897. But you have been proving before this Committee, that the children employed upon straw-plaiting in the Woburn Union can earn much higher wages than the children can obtain in the north?—I really cannot speak to the earnings obtained by the children in the north; I can speak better to the earnings of children employed in the straw-plaiting.

12898. But the returns which have been asked for of the engagements made for those children will speak to that, if you cannot?—No doubt of it; and I stated that in Samuel Chance's case the engagement was made by the migration agent, Mr. Muggeridge.

12899. Was there a contract made in every case?—I believe in every case in which assistance was given by the board.

12900. And a sum was put down that the children would receive as wages under those contracts?—Yes, and the prospect they had of improvement.

12901. If it should so turn out that the sums they were engaged at under those contracts made by the board with the agents in the north, the wages they were to receive were less a great deal than you have been saying might be earned by straw-plaiting in the Woburn Union, do you still think you have been acting with kindness to those families?—That depends upon whether they were brought up to the straw-plaiting; the straw-plait has been spreading through the country, but it has not reached all parts, and people cannot change their hands immediately from one employment to another; it would take some time to obtain good earnings at the straw-plait.

12902. Had they been trained to factory labour in the north, when they left the Woburn Union?—No; but I suppose that is a more mechanical labour.

12903. Do you suppose it is easier to learn than the straw-plait?—I am not acquainted with the nature of the labour there.

12904. But you are acquainted with the straw-plaiting?—Yes.

12905. And you have given the wages that children of different ages can earn at straw-plaiting, from the calculations you have made, and the information you have obtained?—Yes, from information I have obtained.

12906. Have you any doubt of the truth of that information?—No, I have no doubt.

12907. Then, if it should turn out that those wages are higher than they can earn in the north, do you think you acted with kindness to those widows and their children?—If it can be shown that their situation has been made worse, of course, it would be a natural inference that we had not acted kindly towards them.

12908. *Chairman.*] You were asked whether you acted kindly towards those widows and their children, if, while the price of straw-plaiting gave them an employment which was more valuable in Bedfordshire than that which they were likely to obtain in the north, you induced them to remove to the north; were those parties, any of them, removed against their inclination?—Not one, that I am aware of.

12909. Were they, all of them, removed, knowing the conditions upon which they were to go into the north, and the wages that they were there to receive?—They all of them knew their prospect before going.

12910. Were the terms of those contracts explained to all the migrants before they left Bedfordshire?—Undoubtedly.

12911. Were any of them removed compulsorily, or against their inclination?—I am not aware of an instance, and I should not have expected such a thing.

12912. If, therefore, with a perfect knowledge of the terms into which they entered in the north, they voluntarily chose to remove from Bedfordshire into the north, what could have been their inducement to do so?—I suppose the temptation of better wages, of an improvement in their circumstances.

12913. You

12913. You have stated the earnings which families of this description may make at straw-plaiting; you have supposed in those statements that the families are regularly employed at that occupation, for a certain number of days, have you not?—I have.

12914. If therefore, in the case of those migrants, the family should not have been instructed in straw-plaiting, or, from their indolence or idleness or inattention to work, they should not make the usual wages in straw-plaiting, the income arising from that occupation would not be that which you have contemplated?—Certainly not.

12915. May it not happen in many of those instances, that the families may not have been instructed in straw-plaiting, or that, from idle or indolent habits, whether from dependence upon parochial relief or from other circumstances, they may not have been accustomed to devote themselves diligently and steadily to that occupation?—I believe that to be the case.

12916. Do you believe that to be the case in those instances?—I think it to be the case in Whitbread's and Odell's families.

12917. Do you believe also this, that the removing not being compulsory, the parties having before them the statement of the wages they were to receive in the north, if at the time they saw the statement, they were in fact earning better wages in the south and at their homes, they would have gone to the north?—Certainly not.

12918. Then supposing your estimate of the value of straw-plaiting to give them better wages than according to the contracts they would have obtained in the north, must we not presume in those cases either that the parties were not instructed in straw-plaiting, or that they were not in the habit of diligently following that occupation?—It is the natural inference.

12919. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Would it not be also a consideration, that in migrating they obtained certain fixed wages?—I have no doubt that they did in every engagement.

12920. You contracted for that?—Yes.

12921. And therefore they did not go to the north with the certainty of obtaining wages?—There was a positive amount.

12922. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have said that no migrants were sent from the Woburn Union without their consent; how was that consent obtained?—I suppose by application to the parties themselves, or by some of the parties volunteering, as in the case of the orphan children at Toddington; I suppose they volunteered to go with Underwood; I know in the case of Waters it was so.

12923. You say application by the parties themselves; what parties do you mean?—Upon the offer being made to them, and their acquiescing.

12924. Have any threats ever been held out to any families, widows having children, that if they did not migrate from the union to the north, they should be denied parish relief?—I am not aware of such a circumstance in our union.

12925. Are you quite certain that it has not been said to those families, that their relief would either be abridged or withdrawn, if they did not go to the factories in the north?—I cannot be certain of any such thing; I cannot tell what overseers may have done, or what others may have taken upon themselves to say.

12926. You cannot tell what relieving officers may have said?—No, not behind my back.

12927. *Chairman.*] Have any such instructions been given by the board of guardians of the Woburn Union to the relieving officer or any other officer?—Certainly not; I am not aware of any, and it would not have been done by my authority.

12928. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have sent up a letter, pursuant to the returns which have been ordered, which is dated Woburn, 17th of September 1835, and this letter I will now read to the Committee: "Sir; I take the liberty to inform you, that I was at Ampthill to-day, when a resolution was come to by the board of guardians there, to send a person into the manufacturing districts, for the purpose of ascertaining by inquiries amongst the manufacturers, what number of hands could find employment if sent down; and also to make an arrangement with a person in each town or district to be a sort of agent, who could inform the board when to send down people, to receive the people when sent down, and to speak to them in the way, and to get work, for which to be paid so much per head upon those that got into work. From representations made by Mr. Beard,

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I think great good may come out of it, and I therefore took upon myself to say, that although I could not pledge the Woburn board, yet I felt assured our board would like to join Ampthill in this instance, and would be willing to pay a share of the expense of sending a person, in order to participate in the information and the arrangements that might be made with any one who undertakes the agency. Of course the Woburn board will follow their own view of the matter, as they are not committed by any thing I have said. The understanding with the Ampthill board is, that if Woburn goes share in expense, it is entitled to the benefit of the information and so forth with themselves. It is evident that if people are sent down, they ought not to be turned adrift in the streets of Manchester, as was the case with some poor creatures who were sent out of Bucks. I take the earliest opportunity to inform you what passed, and remain your most faithful servant, Thomas Bennett." This letter is addressed to George Pearse, esquire, Harlington?—Yes, and it was a private communication.

12929. Did you receive that communication from Mr. Bennett?—I did.

12930. What answer did you return to that letter?—No written answer.

12931. Was any answer returned to that, except by the board of guardians of the Woburn Union?—We acquiesced in the arrangement. Mr. Bennett was a member of the board of guardians of Woburn; he is the steward of the Duke of Bedford.

12932. Mr. Bennett is the gentleman who has given evidence before this Committee?—He is.

12933. Will you read the answer returned to this letter by the board?—There is no answer to that letter, but there is a letter from the board on the subject, which I will read: "I am instructed by the board of guardians of the union, to inform you that they agree to the offer of the Ampthill board, to allow them to participate in the advantages of the information you are going to obtain, and in the arrangements you make as to appointing an agent for a certain district, for the purpose of assisting in the migration of agricultural labourers and their families. I am, sir, your obedient servant, William Cole, clerk of the union." This is addressed to Mr. John Langston, Cranfield; it is dated 21st September 1835, from Aspley, the residence of the clerk.

12934. What did you do with the letter from Mr. Bennett?—I dare say I submitted it to the board; I have no doubt that I did at the time.

12935. Was an answer returned to this letter?—I find another letter addressed to the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union, which will at once meet the question: "Gentlemen, I am directed to inform you, that this board are willing to share in the expenses about to be incurred by the Ampthill Board, in sending Mr. John Langston into the manufacturing districts to collect information respecting the migration of agricultural labourers, and, if necessary, to appoint an agent for receiving the same, this union being allowed to participate in the advantages likely to accrue from such information. I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant, William Cole, clerk of the union." This is addressed to the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union, from Aspley, the 22d September 1835.

12936. Does that, in your opinion, constitute an alliance between the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union and the board of guardians of the Woburn Union, for the purpose of promoting migration?—This person was the joint agent of the two unions; so far it does; and this man afterwards obtained information as to families suitable to be sent down by the two unions, and obtained engagements for them, and treated with the manufacturers, and finally those engagements met the sanction of the migration agent, and a formal agreement was entered into.

12937. Mr. *Walker*.] Was not this date before the appointment of the migration agent?—I am not aware.

12938. Were not the labourers anxious, at that time, to avail themselves of the employment offered by the manufacturers?—In many cases; in my own parish a man was most anxious to go.

12939. Can you state whether the labourers themselves ever employed any agent for that purpose?—No, I am not aware of that; it was not likely; they had no local knowledge.

12940. Mr. *Fielden*.] Were the two unions united, and did they enter into an engagement to act with each other for the purpose of promoting the migration to the

the north?—No; Mr. Langston was a sort of volunteer in the business, and I believe he undertook it on the promise of being paid his expenses; but we thought he had done his duty very well, and we gave him 10 *l.* additional, and I believe the board of Ampthill did the same.

12941. Have you not just read a letter from the Woburn board of guardians to the Ampthill board of guardians, and another letter from the Ampthill board of guardians to the Woburn board of guardians, in which you enter into a compact to promote migration to the north?—We offer to join in the expenses incurred by this person; he was a mutual agent.

12942. *Chairman.*] Was this person sent for any other purpose than to procure information as to the quantity of employment in the north?—For no other purpose that I am aware of.

12943. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did the two boards of guardians enter into a compact to promote migration to the north?—I have gone to the extent of the compact; I believe there was no other correspondence or communication.

12944. Does that correspondence, if there be no other, constitute an agreement between the two unions?—For that mutual purpose.

12945. Have you acted in conformity with each other with regard to the families of migrants who have gone to the factories?—We have not communicated on the subject since, I think.

12946. Do you know, or do you not know, whether relief has been given on condition that the families should go to the north in the Woburn Union?—I do not think that has been the condition of relief in the Woburn Union.

12947. Are you sure that no threats have been held out to the parties who have been sent to the north, that their relief would be stopped unless they went?—I speak my own conviction, that that has not been the case.

12948. Would the minutes of proceedings of the Woburn board of guardians show whether that has been so or not?—I think, if that had been the case, if any general instruction had been given to the relieving officer to make that a condition of relief, or if such a circumstance had occurred at the board, the minutes would show that.

12949. In the application-book which you have of parties applying for relief, you record the reasons why relief is withheld, if it is withheld, in any case, do you not?—We do so; at the first formation of the board, perhaps, things were not recorded with the same regularity that they are now.

12950. Were they so recorded in the year 1835, when this migration scheme commenced?—The board was only formed in May 1835.

12951. And on the 17th of September this correspondence commenced; do you know whether applications were received and recorded in the same way then as they are now?—I believe not in the same way.

12952. But if any refusal of relief had been made to any who objected to go into the north, would that be recorded?—The refusal of relief would be recorded.

12953. And the grounds of refusal would be recorded?—It might be; I think so; I mean to say, that we are more accurate now than we were then.

12954. *Chairman.*] Were the grounds of refusing always recorded?—Generally.

12955. Mr. *Fielden.*] Were the families of Chance and Odell and Whitbread receiving relief in 1835?—They were dependent more or less upon their parishes. As regards Chance, I am not sure that he had parish relief, except by his being employed by the surveyor in digging gravel.

12956. Was he at that time working for the parish?—I believe he was.

12957. Would you not call that relief?—He was an independent labourer, employed by the surveyor, preparing materials for the use of the road.

12958. Working at wages for the parish?—I think he was.

12959. Would you enter in your expenditure the sum he received?—Yes; that would appear in the account kept by the surveyor of the roads.

12960. Would it enter into the account of relief to different individuals?—No.

12961. *Chairman.*] Does it come out of the poor-rate?—No.

12962. Mr. *Fielden.*] From the letter which you have put into the hands of the Committee, I see the name of a person who migrated, Thomas Shaw, who had a family; do you know any thing of him?—I do not know the person at all.

12963. Do you know when he left the Woburn Union, or where he went to?—I can give you no particulars; I neither know the person, nor the name.

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12964. Do you know whether he went by the advice of the board, or any of the parish officers of the Woburn Union?—I cannot say.

12965. Who can give that information?—I may be able to obtain it for you upon inquiry. I really do not know whom to name at this moment.

12966. Have you relieved Thomas Shaw and his family since they went into the north?—I do not remember any application from Thomas Shaw.

12967. Can that information be obtained from some source whether he went under the sanction of the board or voluntarily?—It can.

12968. Will you give that information to the Committee?—Perhaps it had better be appended to the order to the clerk.

12969. Here I find a letter addressed, "To the Gentlemen of the Board of Guardians of the Poor of the Woburn Union, Bedfordshire;" and these are its contents: "I have been applied to by a family living in my parish, to write to you in their behalf; I have personally inspected their house, and found them to be in a wretched state. The father, Thomas Shaw, is a cripple; they have three children; a girl 15 has been formerly overworked in the factories, and has become lame: the boy earns 7 *s.* per week; the third is too young to work; the mother can seldom get any thing to do; they live in a house over a stable; they have no bed. They wished me to write to ask you to remit them some relief for a short time, in the hopes that by that means they may struggle through the girl's sickness, and when she is in work they can live. If they apply to our authorities, they will immediately return them, literally good for nothing in your part of the country, on your hands. Desiring that you will exercise your own judgment in the matter, I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant, Douglas Cooper, curate of the parish church. Waiting an early reply, I shall not, till I hear, take any steps for their removal." This letter is dated Salford, April 12, 1838. Do you know any thing of this Thomas Shaw?—I do not, except what that letter conveys; I was not aware of the contents of that letter when I put it into your hands yesterday; but I am not at all sorry that it has been brought forward. The difficulty was when we received that letter to make out whether the man belonged to the union or not; nobody seemed to know any thing about him; and I believe that he had no assistance from the parish in migrating; that he was a voluntary migrant; and we sent assistance, a sovereign was sent to him; a post-office order for 20*s.* was sent to him; and I think you will find a return of that in the correspondence. It was mentioned that he belonged to the Woburn Union, but the difficulty was to identify him.

12970. *Chairman.*] Otherwise if he had migrated under the sanction of the board, and had not been a voluntary migrant, there would have been some trace of him in your books?—Certainly, and I do not think that any trace of him is to be found.

12971. But upon receiving that letter there was some assistance sent him?—Yes.

12972. Why did you give him assistance?—Because we subsequently ascertained that he belonged to Woburn.

12973. Mr. *Fielden.*] There is an account in these returns of the sum that has been sent to Shaw, the sum of 1*l.*; do you know that to be so?—It was so; it was so ordered by the board.

12974. Though you know that Shaw has been relieved by the Woburn board to the amount of 1*l.*, you do not know any thing either of him or his family?—I do not know beyond what that letter conveys, and I was not aware of that letter at first, when I said that I did not know any thing of the name of Shaw; I did not call to mind the circumstance.

12975. *Chairman.*] Were you present when that letter was read at the board of guardians?—I was.

12976. Did any of the board appear to recollect that he had been sent by the assistance of the board to the north?—No; inquiry was immediately made, and we learnt from a resident in Woburn, that this man did belong to the parish; he was identified, in short.

12977. But there was no trace in your books, or in the recollection of any body, that he had been sent by the assistance of the board of guardians?—It was not called to mind at the moment.

12978. In consequence of what passed, do you believe that this man was a voluntary migrant, migrating without assistance of the board?—I believe that he was.

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12979. Mr. *Fielden.*] What reason have you to believe that? —Because I was not aware of any assistance having been afforded him.

12980. Might not assistance have been afforded him without your knowledge? —Not at the board.

12981. Mr. *Walker.*] When did he migrate?—I do not know if his name is not amongst those stated as having migrated; I am quite convinced that he is a voluntary migrant, and that he migrated years before the board was formed.

12982. *Chairman.*] His name is not in the list?—Then I am satisfied that he was not sent by the board.

12983. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does the return embrace the names of all the migrants that have gone into the north under the sanction of the board?—I believe so.

12984. And you believe that no other families than those here named have gone to the north with the assistance or under the advice or recommendation, either direct or indirect, of the Woburn board?—I cannot call to mind an instance of it.

12985. Do you know any families that have gone of their own accord, that you can name?—I have said, I believe, that I know of none who have gone without the sanction of the board, with the exception of Coleman; he was a baker, living in Woburn, and he migrated voluntarily, but whether for the purpose of seeking work among the manufacturers or not, I do not know; what his employment was I do not know, but he returned in great distress some time since to our workhouse.

12986. Do you know where he was employed?—I think there is a letter in that correspondence with reference to his case, which would show where he went. (*The Witness examined the papers.*) I perceive very full information given in this paper, with reference to the orphans who migrated with Underwood: "The sum of 17 *l.* 0 *s.* 6 *d.* incurred in the migration of William Underwood and family, Joseph Sturman, Thomas Hart, James Cole and John Harris, orphans, of the parish of Toddington, was also directed to be paid by the relieving officer, and 15 *s.* 11 *d.* on account of the parish of Harlington, for the expense incurred in the migration of Samuel Waters." So that there were more than three orphans who accompanied Underwood.

12987. Do you find a letter relative to Coleman?—This is a letter relating to Thomas Coleman, dated from Manchester: "I was applied to, on the 26th instant, by a man named Thomas Coleman, who, with his wife and four children, migrated from Woburn some months since to Derby. They were employed in a silk mill until it was broken up, and all the family had to get employment elsewhere. Coleman has arrived here; and I now enclose, whereby you will see I have got his children work; he is in a very destitute state; they earnestly request the parish to advance a few shillings on loan, which he will repay out of his weekly earnings. The case demands the immediate attention of the board of guardians, to whom I beg you will submit it. I have advanced a few shillings, to keep his family from starving, until he receives their weekly earnings; but I regret to say that they have neither bed nor bedding, which is truly lamentable at this inclement season. Have the goodness to address your letter to me under cover of the Poor Law Commissioners. I have the honour to be, &c., Charles Thompson, Assistant Migration Agent." Addressed to the clerk of the Woburn Union, from Manchester, the 28th of December 1836.

12988. That person you say was a baker before he migrated?—He was.

12989. Did he find it difficult to get a livelihood in his trade of baking?—I do not know.

12990. Do you know that he received any relief from the parish?—He had at various times received relief from Woburn parish; but I do not think he was in the receipt of any at the time that he left; and I cannot say whether he has had any relief since the formation of the board.

12991. You do not believe that any inducement was held out to him to migrate to the north?—I am persuaded that there was none.

12992. It was entirely voluntary on his part?—It was; I do not know whether the parishioners of Woburn might have given him assistance.

12993. Do you know a person of the name of Elizabeth Bowler, a widow?—I do not; I cannot recollect the name.

12994. *Chairman.*] At the time when you were encouraging this migration, if a party applied to you, and you offered to send the families to the factories, if

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they notwithstanding remained in the union, would their not having gone be any ground for denying relief?—Certainly not; I could give an instance of that: A man of the name of John Chandler, of the parish of Harlington, was very anxious indeed to migrate with his family; we should have given some encouragement to him, but a heavy subscription had been raised just before for Samuel Chance, and moreover we wished to have the benefit of his experience before we assisted Chandler to go; but subsequently to that application that man has received relief from the board, though he did not go.

12995. Mr. *Fielden.*] It was suggested by Mr. Bennett, in his letter, that care should be taken that those migrants who went to the factories should be properly taken care of; what have you done to see that those who left the Woburn Union have been properly taken care of in their new residences?—I rather think, latterly, that was undertaken by the migration agent; I cannot say how, whether by the migration agent, or whether, being at once consigned to the employer, that was done.

12996. Did you take any further care, after they had left the parish to which they belonged, in order to know that those families were properly taken care of?—Of course we expected to have communication with them.

12997. Have you had communication with those that have gone and remained there?—Their friends have; I do not know that the board have communicated with them.

12998. *Chairman.*] The board would have received any application from any of those parties?—Yes; and when removed from us, assistance was occasionally sent to them in case of any emergency; there are several instances of remittances.

12999. Mr. *Fielden.*] Mr. Bennett having stated that a family from Bucks had been turned adrift in the streets of Manchester, did you not think it necessary to see that parties arrived at their destination, and that they were taken proper care of?—You will see, by our correspondence with Mr. Langston, our anxiety upon that subject, and that was our very object in sending Mr. Langston.

13000. Do not your returns state that Mr. Langston was employed to look out for situations for them?—Yes.

13001. Was he to provide for their subsequent treatment?—He was to provide for their first reception; afterwards there was a migration agent, who reported their cases from time to time; Mr. Muggeridge did in several cases.

13002. *Chairman.*] If any parties had fallen into distress, would there have been any difficulty in their making application to the board?—Repeated applications were made, and assistance was given.

13003. And if the migration agent observed that any of them were in distress, would there have been any difficulty in his corresponding with the board?—This correspondence proves that there were communications of that sort.

13004. It proves that you did keep up a communication with the parties who went to the north?—Yes.

13005. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know that there is any migration agent established at Derby, where one of your families went?—I do not.

13006. Do you not know that there is no migration agent in Lancashire, with the exception of Mr. Muggeridge, or some one who assists him at the office where he is stationed at Manchester?—Mr. Langston arranged with some acquaintances of his at Derby, and other places, to attend to the wants of those people, and to provide for them; I cannot, off-hand, say who those persons were, but there was some arrangement of that kind, and we had the means at that time of hearing of those parties.

13007. Have you given any account in your returns of the information you have received as to the circumstances of those labourers?—I do not know; a great deal of the information we received was verbal from Mr. Langston, and some arrangements which he made were verbal.

13008. How long was Mr. Langston employed?—It did not extend over a long period; by referring to the letters, and giving the first letter and the last, I can perhaps show the period. I notice a payment, or a claim, for the expenses of Mr. Langston, and I take it for granted that that concluded the agreement with him; that is dated the 17th of December 1835; I dare say it did not spread over a longer period than three or four months.

13009. Then when his employment ceased, you could not look to Mr. Langston to take care of those families?—It was not necessary to do so.

13010. Who

13010. Who then took charge of them?—They took charge of themselves.

13011. *Chairman.*] Was there any thing in the condition of those families to require a nurse or any body to take care of them?—No.

13012. Were they in possession of their ordinary faculties?—Yes.

13013. Was there any thing that interrupted their communication with you, if they were in any circumstances of distress?—Not at all.

13014. Might they not have made constant application to you?—Yes.

13015. Was not the post open to them?—Yes.

13016. Were there any circumstances that required a resident superintendent, in order to see that their beds were well made, or their dinners cooked, or that they had the ordinary necessaries of life?—I am not aware.

13017. Were they helpless?—I am not aware that they were, in any case.

13018. If they were, could they not, by the medium of the post, have made it known to you?—Yes, certainly.

13019. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you published any addresses which have been sent up to the Commissioners at Somerset-house?—I do not know what communication will come under that denomination.

13020. Have you seen any addresses published in the Appendices to the Reports of the Poor Law Commissioners from various boards of guardians?—There is the report of the board given.

13021. Did you send up a report to the Commissioners?—I have communicated with the Commissioners.

13022. Have you sent more than one report?—I very likely have.

13023. Do you remember how many you have sent?—I cannot say how often I have communicated with the Commissioners.

13024. Have any of the reports which you have sent up been published in the Appendices to the Poor Law Commissioners' Reports?—Yes.

13025. In what year?—I think, in the Second Report; you will find some communication of mine in the Second Report; there may be in the First; there is one from the board, I know; one from myself, and, perhaps, two.

13026. Have you sent any addresses to the board which have not been published in the Appendices to their Reports?—I have not looked over the last Report, and I do not know whether there is one in that or not; but, I think, in the two former Reports, there is a report in each.

13027. *Chairman.*] That is, you wrote a letter to the Commissioners?—One was addressed to the Commissioners; there was one communication from the board beyond my report to the Commissioners.

13028. Mr. *Fielden.*] Were those reports signed by you as chairman of the board?—There was one, if not two, I think, signed by myself as chairman, representing the board.

13029. Were any of those reports signed by the guardians?—I forget really whether the guardians signed individually, or whether I signed in the name of the board; but I think there was one signed by myself, in the name of the board; but there have been certainly petitions which have been individually signed, and I have but a confused recollection as to whether the Reports in question were signed by myself individually, or by the board at large.

13030. But you believe you sent reports up in each year?—There was one in 1835, and another in 1836, I think.

13031. You are not quite certain whether there was one in 1837?—There might have been one in 1837.

13032. In those reports you state what practice you pursue in attending to the wants of the poor?—It conveyed our conviction of the state of things at that time.

13033. What you reported on those occasions, you will abide by as truth?—Of course we did not mean to make a false statement.

Veneris, 1° *die Junii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. P. Scrope.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Walker.
Mr. Liddell.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

George Pearse, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

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13034. Mr. *Fielden.*] DO you know Elizabeth Bowler?—I could not call her name to recollection yesterday; I now remember such a person.

13035. Do you remember her applying to the board for relief?—I do not recollect the particular application; I think she is a single woman belonging to Husborn Crawley.

13036. The Elizabeth Bowler to whom I allude is a widow of the age of 40, with three children?—Then I do not recollect her.

Mr. *James Turner*, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *James Turner.*

13037. WHAT do you know of Mrs. Bowler, a widow in the Woburn Union?—I called to see her several times.

13038. What did she state to you as to her relief and as to the withdrawal of it?—She states herself to be a widow with three children, the eldest nineteen, the youngest nine, and her husband died seven years ago; she was receiving 6 *s.* per week; it was reduced to 3 *s.*, then to 2 *s.*, and afterwards to 1 *s.* 4 *d.*; the money was then stopped, and she was ordered to the board; she was then told she must go to the factories, and the children would earn 25 *s.* a week, and the mother would be able to earn 16 *s.* a week; she refused to go, and the board wished her to send her little girl, nine years of age; to this she objected, and said she would sooner go and sell matches; to this Mr. Croker, the Duke of Bedford's agent, made answer, "What will you do if we turn your boy away?" meaning the second child, who was working for the Duke; she answered, "He must sell matches too." This Elizabeth Bowler told me and Mr. Crabtree on the 5th of January last; there were four young women and her husband's father and mother present at the time; the returns show her statement as to her relief to be correct; John Bowler, her father-in-law, is a labourer, and has received two prizes from the Agricultural Society, one for bringing up a family without parochial relief, the other for being in service 29 years at one place; he and his wife are now on the parish at 4 *s.* a week; they had 5 *s.* a week since the new law came into operation, or about the time that the new law came into operation they had 5 *s.*; Bowler is 75 years of age, and his wife appears to be about the same age: Elizabeth Bowler has since her relief was stopped had an order to go into the workhouse; this Bowler, the old man, was present at the time, and made this statement; I put this down, showing that he is a man of respectable character, and one that may be believed.

George Pearse, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

George Pearse, Esq.

13039. DO you know Bowler, the father-in-law of Elizabeth Bowler?—I do not.

13040. Do you know Elizabeth Bowler?—I cannot call her to recollection.

13041. Do you know any thing of any such conversation as has now been detailed

detailed, having taken place at the board?—I think such a conversation could hardly have taken place without my knowledge, and I believe that to be a very false statement.

13042. Are you constantly in attendance at the board, when it sits?—Ever since the board has been formed I have been absent only three times, and it was formed three years ago.

13043. And if such an occurrence as that had taken place, you must have heard of it?—I take it for granted that I should.

13044. Mr. *Baines.*] Did you ever, at the board, hear any statement that leads you to suppose that such a representation as this would have been made to this widow?—I never heard it referred to in any way; I cannot call any circumstance to my recollection bearing upon it; and might I not decline answering further questions upon this case? I beg the Committee to allow me time to inquire into it.

13045. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Was it a principle of the proceeding of your board, to endeavour to force persons into the manufacturing districts, merely to get rid of them from your own neighbourhood?—Certainly not to force them; people have never been sent against their inclinations.

13046. In the instances in which they did go were they made clearly to understand that to which they were going, as well as that which they were leaving behind?—Yes; they were voluntary agents. I cannot say what persuasion was used out of the board, but at the board certainly no improper solicitation, that I am aware of, was used to induce them to go, or any false representations made to them as to their prospects; if they were inclined to go, we gave them assistance, and those who have migrated have been assisted since, from time to time, in cases of emergency.

13047. Have you reason to believe that some cases of migration took place, with which the board had no connexion?—One did, certainly; I mentioned the case of Thomas Coleman yesterday; that took place without the sanction of the board, but I am not at all sure that the parishioners did not assist; there may have been other cases of the same kind.

13048. Mr. *Baines.*] If you had heard any body at the board state that three children could earn 25 *s.* a week at the factories, would you not have known that that was a misrepresentation?—I had not the means of knowing; I am not aware what they earn at the factories.

13049. Mr. *Fielden.*] I find on the returns of relief given in the Woburn Union, the name of Bowler, widow; she received 3 *s.* in the first month of the parochial year 1834–5, till the ninth week in the third month, when it was reduced to 2 *s.*; it was continued at 2 *s.* till the end of the year. In the parochial year 1835–6, I find the same person, Bowler, Elizabeth, No. 59, with three children; she had 2 *s.* a week for the first, second and the fourth week in the third month of that year; the sum was then reduced to 1 *s.* 8 *d.* till the sixteenth week, being in the fourth month of the same year; in the seventeenth week she had 2 *s.* 8 *d.*; in the eighteenth week 1 *s.* 5 *d.*; in the nineteenth week 1 *s.* 5 *d.*; in the twentieth week 1 *s.* 5 *d.*; and it was continued till the twenty-ninth week; she had 8 *d.*, and the relief was then withdrawn. Have you any doubt of there being such a person as Elizabeth Bowler in the Union of Woburn receiving relief?—If her name appears upon the returns, I take it for granted that it was so.

13050. Have not those reductions been made at different periods when you must have been at the board?—Most likely.

13051. But still you have no recollection of Elizabeth Bowler?—Not the least.

13052. But yet you have said that that statement is altogether untrue?—I say that I believe it to be altogether untrue. I think that such an occurrence could hardly have taken place in my presence without my being cognizant of it.

13053. Do you believe it to be untrue that Elizabeth Bowler received 3 *s.* a week, as stated in these returns, and that she was reduced from time to time till it got down to 8 *d.*?—I think it very probable, but I cannot state the circumstances under which that reduction took place from time to time.

13054. Is that part of the evidence of Mr. Turner untrue?—No, perhaps not.

13055. Then what part is it that you believe to be untrue?—As to any threats being held out to her to induce her to migrate.

13056. There is nothing said about any threats, but a simple statement of facts?—I cannot believe that part, of the board wishing to separate a

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a child nine years old from its parent, to send it to the factories, and I think what Mr. Croker is reported to have said, is something like a threat, which is very unlikely to have been held out at the board by Mr. Croker without my knowledge.

13057. *Chairman.*] Is he a member of the board of guardians?—Yes; and represents Husborn Crawley, the parish to which the woman belongs; he is architect to the Duke of Bedford.

13058. Mr. *Fielden.*] Mr. Croker was in attendance, you believe, at the board?—I know nothing of those circumstances.

13059. But do you mean to say that this is a threat on the part of Mr. Croker, when he puts this question: "What will you do, if we turn your boy away?" meaning the second child, who was working for the Duke?—I think it is very like a threat.

13060. What do you think the answer would be to such a question?—I cannot anticipate the answer.

13061. What other part of the statement do you believe to be untrue?—I cannot object to the remainder, as to any amount of relief that might have been given or withdrawn.

13062. Then the only two parts of the statement which you believe to be false are the questions put by Mr. Croker, and also the statement that the board wished her to send her little girl, nine years of age, to the factories?—Those I believe to be untrue.

13063. Do you believe the other part to be correct?—I have no means of testing the accuracy; I have no books to refer to.

13064. *Chairman.*] You have no reason to disbelieve the returns?—No, I have no doubt they are correct.

13065. But, not recollecting the circumstance, you cannot speak to the transaction?—Certainly not.

13066. Mr. *Fielden.*] I find the name of John Bowler, the father-in-law of this Mrs. Bowler; and in the first month of the parochial year 1834–5 he had 5*s.* a week; this was continued to the end of that month; in the second month it was reduced to 4*s.*; do you believe that to be true?—It most likely is, if it appears upon the returns.

13067. Do you know whether John Bowler is an old man between 70 and 80 years of age?—I have no recollection of him.

13068. Though John Bowler has received two prizes from the Agricultural Society and received relief from the union, you know nothing of him?—I do not.

13069. And you are chairman of the Woburn board of guardians?—I am.

13070. Will you take this letter and read it to the Committee?—This letter is addressed to the relieving-officer of the parish of Woburn, Bedfordshire; it is dated from Waterside, Glossop, Derbyshire, the 7th of April 1837. "To the Gentlemen of the Board of the Parish of Woburn:—Gentlemen, I am under great necessity at this present time to ask for a little assistance of you, for I am in great distress. I have not been able to do any work for ten months; my children have supported me as long as have been in their power, and would have continued to have done so, if it had not been for the distress of times; for they only work four days a week, and it is out of their power to do any thing for me, and the least children or I must fall on this parish in a few days, and be brought home. Your humble servant, Thomas Shaw. If work should amend, my children will do, as before, their best endeavours to keep me."

13071. Will you look on the other side, and read the memorandum made there?—"No relief out of the house, April 10th, 1837."

13072. Do you know that hand-writing?—I really am not sure about it, whether it is the writing of the clerk or not.

13073. That is a letter you have sent up with the returns relative to migration from Woburn?—Yes.

13074. Do you believe that that memorandum was made, and that that was the answer returned to the application of Thomas Shaw?—I really cannot speak to it; I cannot at this moment identify the hand-writing; it may be the clerk's, or it may be one of the guardians'; I cannot speak to it with certainty.

13075. Have you any doubt that that memorandum was made by the clerk, or by one of the guardians?—I decline saying any thing about it.

13076. *Chairman.*]

13076. *Chairman.*] Will you look at this hand-writing of the clerk's which appears upon another document?—(*The Witness examined the same.*) Then I do not think that it is the clerk's; it may be the overseer's.

13077. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you know any thing of the individual who wrote that letter?—I do not; I have no knowledge of him myself.

13078. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is that letter the same as it was when it was sent up from the Woburn Union?—I believe it is the same; those letters were discovered after the returns made to the Committee's order, and finding them in the board-room, I brought them away with me; there was no time to copy them.

13079. Do not you think that it was likely that an answer would have been made to that letter?—I dare say there was some answer made; but I think it very likely that that indorsement was made by the overseer of the parish into whose hands it probably first fell, but I cannot speak to it.

13080. Have you any reason to think that that was the same Thomas Shaw of whom a communication has been made by the Rev. Douglas Cooper, of Salford?—If you will allow me to refer to the correspondence I can state. (*The Witness examined the Correspondence.*) I was questioned about a letter respecting a cripple, and I think his name was Shaw; I do not know whether it was the same or not.

13081. You do not know whether a return was made to that application from Thomas Shaw, contained in that letter, that there was no relief out of the workhouse?—I cannot say any thing about it.

13082. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you know whether Thomas Shaw had been sent from the Woburn Union into the manufacturing districts in Derbyshire, from any prospect of employment held out to him there?—As I do not find his name in the return made of those who migrated with the sanction of the board, I should say decidedly that he did not go receiving any assistance from the board.

13083. Then you presume that he went voluntarily?—I should.

13084. Do you know whether he had a large family?—I know nothing of the case.

13085. Mr. *Fielden.*] Can you give information whether Thomas Shaw be the same identical person in both cases?—The Committee perhaps will make an order for inquiry in the case.

13086. At the application of Mr. Cooper you sent a sum of money?—A sovereign.

13087. If it be the same Thomas Shaw in both cases, and if relief was refused, except in the workhouse in 1837, you have altered your practice with regard to that family now?—If it be the same, of course there was a different determination.

13088. Supposing it to have been a different determination, the person being the same, is it, in the latter case, because the family having been over-worked in the factories is literally good for nothing in your part of the country, as stated in the letter of the Rev. Douglas Cooper?—I cannot hypothetically state what may have influenced the decision of the board.

13089. *Chairman.*] Do you remember the circumstance?—Not at all, except with regard to the cripple, Shaw, that it was very difficult to make out his settlement, and I know that a post-office order was sent to him.

13090. Mr. *Fielden.*] In this letter Shaw states, "If work should amend, my children will do, as before, their best endeavours to keep me;" would you not infer from that, that Shaw was then dependent upon his children?—Yes, but I cannot say whether he received parish assistance or not.

13091. Does not that agree with the representation of Mr. Cooper, that Thomas Shaw is a cripple, and now is in the distressed situation in which he found him?—I would rather not draw any inference without having the facts before me.

13092. Did you engage the migrants who were sent from the Woburn Union at so much a week, for a period of time?—They made the engagement for themselves; they were the consenting parties.

13093. Did the clerk of the Woburn Union send down a list of the families, stating the number and ages of the children, and the sums they were to receive, and the place to which they were consigned?—I forget precisely how the communications took place, but information may be obtained in every case.

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13094. But you have conveyed that information to some quarter, either to the Poor Law Commissioners or to somebody else?—I do not know whether the migration agent was the medium of communication in every case or not; I think the engagement was made in some instances through Mr. Langston's intervention, and in some through the intervention of the migration agent.

13095. Have you never taken any pains to see whether the contracts were fulfilled?—When they left us they were free agents, and could take care of themselves, and we have not interfered any further in their instance, unless they have applied for relief subsequently, which has sometimes been the case, and we have occasionally sent assistance.

13096. Did you not write to Messrs. Bridgett & Company, at Derby, and make inquiry as to the wages of Ann Odell, a widow?—I dare say that was in consequence of some application of Ann Odell to the board; but it is impossible for me to speak with certainty at this moment.

13097. Did you find that the wages of her children were reduced below the sum that they had contracted to pay?—I take it for granted that she could not get on well there, and that that was the reason for her return; I do not know what her wages were off-hand.

13098. This is a letter of Messrs. Bridgett & Company, giving the wages of that woman; will you read that letter?—I was spoken to respecting the indorsement of a letter a little time ago, and I think, looking at this, I recognize it as the endorsement of the relieving-officer of the Woburn district, not now in office. This letter is addressed to Mr. R. Stratfold, Relieving Officer, Woburn, dated from Derby, 27th July 1836. "To Mr. Stratfold, Woburn.—Sir, Yours of the 25th is to hand, and in reply, we beg to send you annexed the particulars of what the Odells have received for the last four weeks. They have not got quite so much lately, in consequence of our pulling down part of our factory to rebuild, but they might always get more than they have if they chose to exert themselves; with regard to rent, we know she has paid none since May, and has always said she would not. Up to that time we took the trouble to see it paid, but were obliged to give it up; as to her furniture being taken for rent, we cannot think any body will be at the trouble, unless she insists upon stopping in the house and not paying; the owner of the house told us last week, it was not worth his while to take it, and he has since told her, that if she will either go out or pay the rent from this time forward, he will forgive it up to last week; we have not given her any thing, as we really do not see that there is any need of it; we have never given her any thing since you last wrote; up to that time from March, we had given her 29*s.*, which we have still against you; if you wish us to give her any money we shall have no objection, but we are told she can afford to visit the gin-shop. Yours, &c., Thomas Bridgett & Company."

13099. Will you read the wages?—Odell's wages last week, 13*s.*; previous weeks, 12*s.* 10*d.*; 15*s.* 4*d.*; 15*s.* 10*d.*

13100. Mr. *Liddell.*] Who are the parties who wrote that letter?—It is signed, Thomas Bridgett & Co., dated from Derby.

13101. Mr. *Fielden.*] Were your contracts made for a specific sum weekly for the first, second and third year?—I cannot speak to that from recollection.

13102. Supposing that the returns should show them to be so; has the contract been violated on the part of Thomas Bridgett & Company?—I cannot say by which party it may have been violated.

13103. Do not you see a variation there in the wages of four weeks?—Yes.

13104. Were not the wages to be the same?—Yes; but I cannot tell under what circumstances that variation took place.

13105. Supposing you had contracted that they should receive a certain sum per week, and that sum amounted to the highest sum there, and you find one lower by two or three shillings, would you think in that case that the contract had been complied with on the part of Thomas Bridgett & Company?—I cannot tell the nature of the contract; I do not know under what circumstances the contract was made in that particular case.

13106. Is there any particular case that you can allude to of a contract?—I know in Samuel Chance's case, which I mentioned yesterday, there was a contract entered into between him and his employers; and there is information given in the returns much fuller than I can give it verbally, as to that case and the others; I dare say there is information given as to Odell's family.

13107. You

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13107. You are aware that Ann Odell had a family of seven in number?—It is stated in the return that Ann Odell had six children; I suppose they migrated with her.

13108. Her family would be seven in number?—Yes.

13109. Did they return back seven in number?—I do not know.

13110. Do you think much was spent by her in gin-drinking out of 12*s.* 10*d.* a week?—I cannot tell what she earned on her own account; this gives merely the earnings of the children.

13111. Might not distress drive her to gin-drinking?—That I cannot answer for.

13112. Does she get any gin in the Woburn workhouse?—Yes, I know that she did, in attending a man in a dreadful state, and as a stay to her stomach; it was administered medicinally.

13113. She is now a nurse in the Woburn workhouse?—Yes.

13114. And you would not think it improper to give her a little gin occasionally?—Under the circumstances in which it was given her before, I should not think it improper.

13115. A great deal has been written as to the kind manner in which widows have been treated under the new Poor Law; do you think that these widows, who were sent down to the manufacturing districts of the north, were treated with kindness, in first engaging them with certain individuals in the north, and then not looking after them to see whether their wages were paid according to their contracts, and making no inquiry after them, unless they made their cases known to you?—I ought not to be surprised into an answer, without having an opportunity of examination; I know that assistance was rendered to this woman; I cannot, taken by surprise, give answers as to other cases; and I ought not to be entrapped into answers which might not be perfectly true.

13116. *Chairman.*] But, assuming the facts, would you think it humane on the part of the board?—In making engagements for those persons, we supposed that we were providing properly for them, and that we were making beneficial arrangements for them; and whenever application has been made to the board, arising from sickness or other cause, remittances have been made to them; we have not lost sight of them, and particularly in the case of Odell; she has been treated with every sort of kindness, and I am sure she would acknowledge it.

13117. Mr. *Scrope.*] In the case of any infraction of engagements entered into with either of those parties, would it not be open to the parties to proceed before the local magistrates?—I take it for granted that they could.

13118. Therefore you would not consider it your duty to take that out of the hands of the local magistracy?—In one or two instances, we understood that the infraction of the contract arose from the stoppage of the mills, a thing we could not provide against.

13119. Mr. *Liddell.*] Have you ever heard of any migrant availing himself of that resource, of applying to the local magistrates in case of the infraction of the engagement?—I have not; many of those parties remain, and I take it for granted that they are doing well and are satisfied.

13120. *Chairman.*] But some have returned?—Yes; we do not like the system of migration; and when parties have applied for assistance to enable them to migrate, we have declined assisting them.

13121. That is from your experience of the system having in many instances failed?—Yes; the parties have returned upon our hands, and been more expense to us than before they left us; and a considerable expense was incurred in their outfit, which has been thrown away.

13122. Mr. *Fielden.*] You think the practice of sending widows into the north has not been a wise one?—Our discontinuance of it will imply that.

13123. It is what you should not recommend to be practised in future?—I should not, individually; and I believe that is the opinion of the board.

13124. Where it has prevailed to a greater extent than it has done in the Union of Woburn, you think they are more censurable in taking that course than you are?—I do not know that any censure attaches.

13125. Do not you think that it is unkind to send widows in that way, and not take further care of them?—I cannot tell under what circumstances arrangements may be made.

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13126. Mr. *Liddell.*] Perhaps you would regard it rather in the light of an experiment, when it was originally made?—Yes, and, to mark our feeling of it, I may mention that one family migrated from Harlington, and after they had migrated, at considerable expense, another party applied, but till we had a good report of this man, and had a little more experience, we declined sending a second family.

13127. Mr. *Fielden.*] I find that an address to the Poor Law Commissioners from the Woburn Union was sent up in the year 1836, and in that address there is this passage: "To aged widows and labourers of good report, struggling under the pressure of declining years, it is the practice of the board to administer the provisions of the Act with much kindness, indeed, with the utmost latitude that a proper interpretation of the regulations of the Commissioners, referring to the subject, will admit;" has that practice been pursued towards those widows, or to widows residing upon the spot?—I hope that it has.

13128. You, as the chairman of the board, ought to know whether it has or not?—There may be a difference of opinion upon the subject; we think that we have administered the law with kindness.

13129. You are so conscious of it, that you sent up this report to the Poor Law Commissioners?—That was the report of the board, and implied the conviction of the board at the time.

13130. Do you remember the case of a widow in Woburn of the name of Mrs. Deacon?—

The Committee Room was cleared.

And an objection being raised to the question, Motion made (Mr. *Fielden,*) "That the Witness answer the question."

Amendment proposed (Mr. *P. Scrope,*) To leave out the words after the word "That," and to substitute "the question be postponed until the Committee be summoned to decide whether the case of the widow Deacon be entered upon or not in the present stage of the Committee's inquiry:"

Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question;

Ayes 1.	Noes 3.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Freshfield.
	Mr. Liddell.
	Mr. P. Scrope.

The Amendment proposed by Mr. Scrope was put, and agreed to.

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

RESULT of an INQUIRY into a COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, tendered to a Committee of the House of Commons, by

NAME of LABOURER.	Age of Labourer.	Age of Wife.	Age and Sex of Family residing with Parents: Boys.	Age and Sex of Family residing with Parents: Girls.	Description of Work in which the Labourer was employed in 1837.	Number of Weeks.	Rate per Week (average).	Total Earnings of Labourer at his employment, exclusive of Hay Season and Harvest.	Earnings of Labourer during Hay Season and Harvest.	Earnings of Wife and Family.	Gleanings, Value of.	Estimated Value of Garden Produce, after deducting Rent and other Expenses.	Allowance received from the Parish during the year 1837.	Total Income of Labourer and Family during 1837.
			Years.	*Years.*			*s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*
Aldridge, William [a]	21	29	4.	-	jobbing - -	41	10 –	20 10 –	4 5 –	1 6 –	- -	- -	- -	27 9 –
					club - -	4	7 –	1 8 –						
Bonner, Samuel [b] -	76	–	- -	- - -	- - jobbing, stone-picking.	18	task -	12 18 6	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	12 18 6
Bonner, Jacob -	35	31	5.	13. 10. 7. 3. 1.	railroad - -	40	- -	28 10 –	- -	9 2 –	- -	- -	- -	40 15 –
Bonner, Peter [c] -	45	45	4. 2.	17. 13. 10. 7.	Mr. Olney's -	6	- -	3 3 –						
					- - railroad and jobs, &c. &c.	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Bonner, William [d]	40	38	17. 10. 5.	1.	- - task-work, when required.	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Brinkler, James [e] -	32	27	6. 1.	7. 4.	- - jobbing and travelling.	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Bunker, Thomas (widower).	69	–	- -	- - -	- - gardens, jobs, &c. &c.	52	4 –	10 8 –	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	10 8 –
Carter, John - -	25	35	8.	6.	threshing -	45	9 6	21 7 6	5 18 3	4 7 9	- -	- -	- -	31 13 6
Chance, William [f]	26	23	- -	4. 6 months.	threshing -	46	9 –	20 14 –	5 7 6	3 15 –	– 7 –	– 8 6	- -	30 12 –
Chew, Joseph [g] -	24	24	- -	- - -	- - railroad jobs, plaiting, &c. &c.	28	10 –	14 – –	- -	7 16 –	- -	- -	- -	21 16 –
Cox, Benjamin -	44	42	12. 10. 1.	16. 6. 3.	jobbing, &c. -	44	9 –	19 16 –	5 19 –	15 9 10	– 3 6	1 7 6	- -	42 15 10
Cox, John (son of Benjamin) [h]	20	–	single -	- - -	- - -	42	?	17 16 –	4 12 –	- -	- -	- -	- -	22 8 –
Eaton, John - -	22	–	single -	- - -	- - railroad jobs, plaiting & prison.	44	- -	19 8 10	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	19 8 10
Eaton, Joseph [i] -	26	–	- -	- - -	- - -	–	- -	- -	- -	- Tabular Statement adopted -			- -	- -
Farr, John [k] -	60	50	- -	- - -	shepherd -	44	6 –	13 4 –	3 10 –	5 4 –	- -	- -	- -	21 18 –
Gazelee, William [l]	73	74	- -	- - -	- - a permanent pauper.	52	5 –	- -	unknown -	unknown -	unknown -	- -	13 – –	13 – –
Gazelee, Thomas -	33	31	5. 2.	1.	jobbing - -	45	8 –	18 – –	6 1 3	2 12 –	- -	- -	- -	26 13 3
Hack, John (widower) [m].	50	–	- -	- - -	- - -	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Hilyard, Henry [n] -	22	–	single -	- - -	jobbing, &c. -	29	- -	13 16 7	4 15 8	- -	- -	- -	- -	18 12 3
					plaiting - -	20								
Jackson, George [o] -	51	50	10.	20. 18. 16. 14. 12.	jobbing & begging	26	9 –	11 14 –	7 – 4	41 18 6	- -	– 10 9	- -	61 3 4
King, John [p] -	25	25	2.	- - -	jobbing - -	33½	10 –	16 15 –	4 3 8	8 6 10	- -	- -	- -	29 5 6
Kingham, Daniel [q]	28	28	4.	2. 3 months.	railroad - -	41	10	20 10 –	1 7 –	2 12 –	- -	- -	- -	24 9 –
Kingham, John -	30	30	4.	6. 1.	jobbing - -	45	9 –	20 5 –	5 8 –	3 18 –	- -	– 12 6	- -	30 3 6
Knight, John [r] -	60	58	- - two at service.	- - -	- - jobbing and travelling.	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Linger, Joseph, sen. [s]	34	38	8.	12. 4.	jobbing & railroad	unknown		14 – 6	5 5 –	11 6 6	– 7 –	- -	- -	30 19 –
Linger, Joseph, jun. -	18	–	single -	- - -	railroad - -	28	8 –	13 – –	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	13 – –
					plaiting - -	24	1 6							
Lingar, James [t] -	19	–	single -	- - -	railroad -	25	- -	16 15 4	2 11 –	- -	- -	- -	- -	19 6 4
					plaiting - -	20								
Lingar, William [u] -	27	28	- -	- - -	- - -	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Lowens, William [x]	48	–	- -	- - -	shepherd, &c. -	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Marlow, William [y]	48	42	13. 10.	7. 5. 2.	- - -	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Nield, James (widower) [z].	36	–	6.	7.	jobbing, &c. -	37	10 –	18 10 –	6 1 9	- -	- -	- -	- -	24 11 9
Odell, John [aa] -	30	unknown -		- - -	- - -	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Odell, Robert [bb] -	29	22	1.	- - -	railroad & jobbing	52	- -	22 19 6	- -	5 4 –	- -	- -	- -	28 3 6
Odell, Thomas [cc] -	33	29	5.	7. 3. 1.	jobbing - -	41	10 –	20 10 –	5 13 –	- -	- -	– 8 9	- -	27 18 9
					ditto - -	3	9 –	1 7 –						
Odell, William [dd] -	40	40	- -	16. 13. 11. 8. 3.	- - -	–	states	12 16 –	5 15 –	22 12 10	- -	– 18 6	- -	42 2 4
Pedder, William [ee]	40	30	12. 4.	7. 5. 2.	jobbing - -	–	- -	21 7 6	6 2 –	4 15 10	- -	- -	- -	27 9 6
Phillips, William, sen. [ff].	60	–	- -	- - -	- - -	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Phillips, William, jun. [gg].	23	–	- -	- - -	- - -	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Phillips, Joseph [hh]	54	–	- -	- - -	- - -	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Short, John [ii] -	26	–	single until 4 Dec. 1837 -		jobbing - -	49	- -	25 6 10	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	25 6 10
Short, William [kk] -	33	30	11. 5.	10.	jobbing - -	45	11 –	24 15 –	6 6 –	13 14 1	- -	- -	- -	44 15 1
Short, Richard [ll] -	61	58	- -	21. 16.	jobbing - -	32	9 –	14 8 –	4 17 –	25 – 6	- -	- -	- -	44 5 6
Short, Jesse [mm] -	19	–	single -	- - -	- - railroad jobs and plaiting.	–	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
Sherwood, Job (widower) [nn].	42	–	15. 14.	9. 7. 5. 4.	woodman -	45	11 –	24 15 –	6 2 –	16 18 –	- -	- -	- -	47 15 –
Somerfield, John -	27	24	6. 4.	2.	- - -	44	9 –	19 16 –	7 3 –	3 11 6	- -	– 12 6	- -	31 3 –
Sharman, James [oo]	47	50	13.	15. 8.	- - -	44	10 –	22 – –	7 3 –	11 18 4	– 10 6	– 8 9	- -	42 – 1
Walton, James -	29	29	- -	1.	- - -	–	- -	17 14 –	5 5 –	7 3 –	- -	- -	- -	30 2 –
Wilstead, John -	57	54	- -	13.	sawyer - -	48	10 – and beer	24 – –	1 – –	9 10 8	– 7 –	- -	- -	34 17 8

This Table shows,—1st, That of the 48 labourers whose names are inserted by Mr. Turner, there are but 31 whose incomes can be ascertained, so as to draw a comparison between

2dly, That the above 31 men, in the year 1834, had, collectively, 608 weeks' employment, at 7*s.* 4¾*d.* per week, being an average of less than 20 weeks each, and that they received for which they gave no profitable labour in return.

3dly, That the same 31 men, in the year 1837, had, collectively, 1,488 weeks' work, at a weekly average of 9*s.* 4¾*d.*, being 48 weeks to each; that they received for the

4thly, That, as compared with the year 1834, as stated by Mr. Turner, this Table shows a collective increase in the net income of the above 31 men and families of 285*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, apparent had it been practicable to obtain an account of the earnings of the remaining 17, so as to draw a fair comparison between the two years 1834 and 1837.

Appendix, No. 1.

Mr. *James Turner*, purporting to show the Condition of Forty-eight Men belonging to the Parish of *Westoning*, in the Year 1837.

Expenditure for: Rent.	Rates.	Fuel.	Clubs.	Total regular Expenditure.	Net Income applicable to Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles, and other Necessaries, during the year 1837.	Total Number in each Labourer's Family in the Year 1837.	Omitted Sources of Income.	REMARKS.
£. s. d.		£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			
– 7 6	- -	– 19 6	13 4	2 – 4	25 8 8	1½	- - - -	- - (a) This man had a wife and child during the last quar remainder of the year single, and living with his parents.
2 12 –	- -	- -	- -	2 12 –	10 6 6	1	gathering stones -	- - (b) This man's earnings cannot be traced beyond 18 w 1837; he has the privilege of turf for fuel, and sells the ashes the turf.
3 12 –	- -	3 18 –	12 –	8 2 –	32 13 –	8		
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	–	- - - -	- - (c) This man's earnings at the railroad cannot be trace impossible to draw a comparison.
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	–	- - - -	- - (d) Has a cottage right, keeps cows and pigs, is much en and his wife in the dairy; when not occupied at home, has tas his condition is that of a small farmer; this man is shown Statement to have been at regular day-work during 1834 at may therefore be fairly presumed that his occupation in 1837 than in 1834, and his position in society altered for the bette
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	–	- - - -	- - (e) The statement of this man very unsatisfactory, and
lives with his son		- -	- -	- -	10 8 –	1	- - food at houses of gentlemen, where he is employed a great proportion of the year.	manner; travels with a basket, as a dealer in rags, phials, sh not disclosed his earnings, and therefore a comparison cannot
3 – –	- -	3 5 –	- -	6 5 –	25 8 6	4		
- -	- -	2 – –	12 –	2 12 –	28 – –	4	- - - -	(f) Lives with his father.
3 – –	- -	2 12 –	- -	5 12 –	16 4 –	2	straw-plaiting -	- - (g) This man's father is a carpenter and wheelwright (journe works with him; the cottage is comfortably furnished, but th account for his earnings, therefore recourse is had to Tabular by Mr. Turner, who appears to have obtained a statement of
3 – –	- -	3 18 –	- -	6 18 –	35 17 10	8		
- -	- -	- -	12 –	– 12 –	21 16 –	1	- - - -	- - (h) This lad was part of family in 1834, and lived with should not therefore have been inserted in comparative Table.
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	19 8 10	1	straw-plaiting.	
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	3	- - - -	- - (i) This man having declined to give information, his ea ascertained to be 25 *l.* 13 *s.*; but those of his family, and expe fuel, &c. cannot be obtained, and therefore a *comparison* cann
3 – –	- -	3 18 –	- -	6 18 –	15 – –	2	- - - -	- - (k) This man is crippled in the arm, which incapacitates h formance of ordinary labour.
- -	- -	2 12 –	- -	2 12 –	10 8 –	2	- - - -	- - (l) This man is infirm, but neither himself nor wife are in contributing towards their own support, particularly during harvest.
3 2 10	- -	3 18 –	15 –	7 15 10	18 17 5	5		
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	.	- - - -	- - (m) Too weak in intellect to give any account of his incom mother and sister, and is frequently unemployed when work long time an inmate of the workhouse, which is considered place for him.

Appendix, No. 2.

RESULT of an INQUIRY into a COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, tendered to a Committee of the House of Commons, by Mr. *James Turner*,

NAME of LABOURER.	Age of Labourer.	Age of Wife.	Age and Sex of Family residing with Parents: Boys.	Age and Sex of Family residing with Parents: Girls.	Description of Work.	Number of Weeks.	Rate per Week.	Total Earnings of Labourer at regular Employment exclusive of Hay Season and Harvest.	Earnings of Labourer during Hay Season and Harvest.	Earnings of Wife and Family.	Gleanings, value of	Estimated Value of Garden Produce, after deducting Rent and other Expenses.	Allowance from the Parish during 1837.	Total Income of Labourer and Family in 1837.
			Years.	*Years.*			*s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. s. d.*		*£. s. d.*
Armsden, Edward	44	42	3.	14.11.9.6.1	jobbing	52	9 –	23 8 6	2 – –	12 10 3	– –	– –	– –	37 18 9
Bass, John [a]	36	30	6. 3.	9. 1.	horse-keeper	45	9 –	20 5 –	5 8 –	2 12 –	– –	– –	– –	28 5 –
Bonner, Crawley	66	70	– –	– –	shepherd	45	8 –	18 – –	3 17 –	[b]	– –	– –	– –	– –
Brinkler, Thomas [c]	42	45	17. 15. 13. 8. 6.	11.	farm servant	52	– –	25 16 8	2 – –	31 11 5	– 14 –	1 7 6	– –	61 9 7
Bunker, Joseph	40	33	16. 6.	4. 1.	threshing	45	9 –	20 5 –	5 5 –	9 2 –	– –	– –	– –	34 12 –
Bunker, William	36	37	13. 9. 5.	11. 3. 1.	horse-keeper	44	10 6	23 2 –	6 10 –	11 18 4	– 17 6	1 17 6	– –	44 5 4
Bunyan, Thomas	60	49	12.	19. 9.	threshing	45	9 –	20 5 –	5 5 –	18 4 –	– –	– –	– –	43 14 –
Bunyan, William	33	31	5. 3.	10. 7.	horse-keeper	45	9 –	20 5 –	5 13 –	3 11 6	– –	1 – –	– –	30 9 6
Carr, John [d]	26	21	2.	– –	jobbing	– from Club		4 5 6 22 15 –	– –	7 3 –	– –	– –	– –	34 3 6
Chance, Peter	39	34	6. 4.	1.	jobbing	44	9/ & 10/	21 17 –	5 19 –	3 11 6	– –	– –	– –	31 7 6
Cook, John [e]	41	q[y]	– –	– –	– – rick-builder and jobbing.	45	9 –	20 5 –	5 11 –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –
Dale, John, *alias* Martindale, John [f]	37	37	– –	– –	– – horse-keeper to his father.	52	9 –	23 8 –	2 – –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –
Eaton, Edward	66	–	14.	17.	roads	50 2	5 – 8 –	13 6 –	– –	15 12 –	– –	– –	– –	28 18 –
Eyres, Henry [g]	39	39	Apprentice at Ampthill.	– –	jobbing	44	10 –	22 – –	6 16 –	9 2 –	– –	– 17 6	– –	38 15 6
Gazellee, William [h]	42	44	14.	11. 8.	jobbing	45	9 –	20 5 –	5 8 –	15 1 10	– –	– –	– –	40 14 10
Gazellee, Jesse [i]	19	– –	– – single	– –	jobbing	52	5 –	13 – –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	13 – –
Gurney, Joseph [k]	27	– –	– single in 1837	–	woodman	42	12 –	25 4 –	6 6 –	– –	– –	– –	– –	31 10 –
Gurney, Richard [l]	30	21	– –	2.	jobbing	52	– –	27 7 6	– –	3 18 –	– –	– 15 –	– –	32 – 6
Gurney, William [m]	36	28	3.	– –	jobbing	46	10 –	23 – –	5 – –	8 6 10	– –	– 9 6	– –	36 16 4
Hyde, Henry	45	63	– –	– –	hedging & jobbing	48	9 –	21 12 –	4 5 –	1 6 –	– –	– –	– –	27 3 –
Hyde, William	43	40	– –	18. 17. 6. 2.	cowherd	45	9 –	20 5 –	5 8 –	19 1 4	– –	– –	– –	44 14 4
Harris, Thomas [n]	70	–	– –	– –	jobbing	37	8 –	14 16 –	5 8 –	– –	– –	– –	– –	20 4 –
Hilyard, Robert [o]	42	39	– –	15.14.10.7.	jobbing	44	9 –	19 16 –	7 3 –	16 13 8	– –	– –	– –	43 12 8
King, George [p]	45	48	15. 12.	16. 10.	shepherd	41	8 –	16 8 –	5 8 –	25 15 8	4*l.* shearing.	– –	– –	51 11 8
Pedder, Richard	28	28	5. 1.	7. 3. 2.	jobbing	41	8/ & 9/	17 9 –	4 8 –	5 4 –	– –	1 4 –	– –	28 5 –
Sear, William	43	43	13.10.8.6.2	18.	jobbing	42	9 –	18 18 –	7 7 –	20 4 1	– –	– –	– –	46 9 1
Sharp, Thomas	66	–	– –	20, dumb	jobbing	44	9 6	20 18 –	5 15 –	2 12 –	– –	– –	– –	29 5 –
Sherwood, Thomas [q]	21	20	– –	– –	horse-keeper	46	7 –	16 2 –	4 15 –	1 19 –	– –	– –	– –	22 16 –
Washington, Richard	31	31	8.	– –	jobbing	40 4	10 – 9 –	20 – – 1 16 –	5 10 –	8 9 –	– –	– –	– –	35 15 –
Yates, Thomas	44	43	13.	10. 8. 2.	threshing	46	9 –	20 14 –	5 11 –	10 2 7	– 10 6	– 15 –	– –	37 13 1
								£. s. d. 753 1 8						

This Table shows,—

1st, That wages have increased since the year 1834, the above 30 men having received in that year 727*l.* 2*s.* for 1,560 weeks' employment; and in 1837,

2dly, It admits a decrease of income, as compared with 1834, of 14*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* between six of the labourers, and shows an increase in the remaining 24 men

Appendix, No. 2.

purporting to show the condition of Thirty Labourers belonging to the Parish of *Westoning*, in the Year 1837.

Expenditure during 1837, for				Total regular Expenditure.	Net Income applicable to Food, Clothing, Soap, Candles, and other Necessaries, for the year 1837.	Total Number in each Labourer's Family in the Year 1837.	Omitted Sources of Income.	REMARKS.
Rent.	Rates.	Fuel.	Clubs.					
s. d.	*s.*	*s. d.*	*s. d.*	£. *s. d.*	£. *s. d.*			
40 –	6	65 –	- -	5 11 –	32 7 9	8	- - garden, allotment and a pig.	
65 –	- -	60 –	- -	6 5 –	22 – –	6	- - -	(a) Has not seen Crabtree or Turner.
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	2	- - -	- - (b) Refused to give any account of the earnings of his wife, who is post-woman, errant-woman, and keeps a shop.
36 –	- -	78 –	8 –	6 2 –	55 7 7	8	- - -	(c) Was not examined by Turner or agent.
60 –	- -	65 –	- -	6 5 –	28 7 –	6	- - an allowance when from home with the horses.	
62 6	- -	78 –	15 –	7 15 6	36 9 10	8	- - half an acre of land rent free.	
60 –	- -	78 –	- -	6 18 –	36 16 –	5		
95 –	- -	78 –	15 –	9 8 –	21 1 6	6		
64 –	- -	78 –	12 –	7 14 –	26 9 6	3	a pig - -	(d) Was not examined by Turner or Crabtree.
60 –	- -	65 –	- -	6 5 –	25 2 6	5	building ricks.	
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	(e) Declined an examination.
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	- - (f) This man is in possession of a cottage right, keeps cows and pigs, and his income cannot be correctly ascertained.
- -	- -	- -	78 –	3 18 –	25 – –	3		
80 –	6	49 –	12 –	6 18 –	31 17 6	2	- - -	- - (g) Has never been applied to by Crabtree, Turner or Biggs for a statement.
70 –	- -	78 –	- -	6 18 –	33 16 10	5	- - -	(h) Refuses information, not having given any to Crabtree or Turner.
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	13 – –	1	- - -	(i) Lives with his father.
- -	- -	- -	18 –	– 18 –	30 12 –	1	- - -	(k) Did not inform Crabtree or Turner.
60 –	- -	78 –	18 –	7 16 –	24 4 6	3	- - -	(l) Did not see Crabtree or Turner.
64 –	4	65 –	12 –	7 6 –	29 10 4	3	- - -	(m) Has not furnished to any one a statement of his earnings.
- -	- -	40 2	12 –	2 12 2	24 10 10	2		
- -	- -	78 –	12 –	4 10 –	40 4 4	6		
20 –	4	- -	- -	1 4 –	19 – –	1	- - -	(n) Was not applied to by Crabtree or Turner, or any one on their behalf.
70 –	- -	78 –	- -	7 8 –	36 4 8	6	- - -	- - (o) States that Turner and Crabtree did not inquire into the earnings of the family.
60 –	- -	78 –	12 –	7 10 –	44 1 8	6	- - beer and milk, and plaiting straw.	- - (p) This man has beer and milk all the year, and makes plait on his own account, whilst tending the sheep; amount not included.
55 –	- -	65 –	- -	6 – –	22 5 –	7		
60 –	- -	78 –	24 8	8 2 8	38 6 5	8		
40 –	8	78 –	- -	6 6 –	22 19 –	2		
18 9	- -	- -	12 –	1 10 9	21 5 3	1½	- - -	(q) Married at Michaelmas 1837.
38 –	8	78 –	12 –	6 12 –	29 3 –	3	garden allotment.	
60 –	- -	78 –	- -	6 18 –	30 15 1	6		
						123½		

for 1,537 weeks' work, 753*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

of 164*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, and at the same time a decrease in population of 2¾; so that, supposing the necessaries of life to be dearer than in 1834, the labourer is much better off.

Appendix, No. 3.

STATEMENTS delivered in by Mr. *Cadogan Williams.*

Mr. Cadogan Williams having expressed a strong desire to give evidence, the Committee allowed him to put in the following statement:—

I see, from a brief history given of the rise and progress of the Equitable Assurance Office, that it was established about the year 1762. That the number of policies that had been granted to the year 1768 were 1,168, yet there were only 564 in force; the rest had become forfeited, to the great profit of the Society, by persons discontinuing to pay their premiums, which I attribute to want of faith and ignorance of the public in such transactions (and they must have been the better educated public): indeed, what goes to prove that to be the case, the attorney-general of the day did not think himself justified to advise the Crown to grant a charter to the Society; for the premiums were not thought sufficiently high, though they were then nearly double in amount what they are now. At that time the Amicable Assurance Office assured a given sum on all lives under the age of forty-five, for one common amount of premium. What induces me to bring those facts forward is, to show, that insurance, in its commencement, and on just views, is but a business of yesterday; and that it is not likely that every possible assurance has been established or discovered for distributing wealth, especially those that affect the working classes, as, in the nature of things, the most improved portion of society are likely to lead as to time in deriving advantage from institutions. With regard to giving the working classes the opportunity of making a provision for their old age, it is true they may place their money in the savings banks, which is a means they did not in former days possess; but suppose an individual had accumulated sixty pounds, which is a large sum for the class contemplated to be possessed of, yet if he were subjected to protracted helplessness, he would be obliged to have recourse to parish aid after a life of frugality. Now, had that person the opportunity, and had paid 6*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* when he was 21, or 7*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* when he was 25 years of age, and so in proportion as age advanced, he would be entitled to four shillings a week when he had attained the age of sixty-five (the value of the annuities are not my calculations, but given from public returns): it would be more satisfactory than a sum of money to make a provision for old age. In fact, a deferred annuity is the way a given sum will go furthest to secure an object which must be desired by every one, that is, an independent provision for old age; it is availing ourselves of the order and method of nature. Now, with respect to carrying this scheme into practice throughout Great Britain, its practicability has possibly staggered some gentlemen. The main pivot of the business must depend on the annuitant's declaration; and so marked is every individual by time and place of nativity, family, connexions and calling, that the identity is completely secured with ordinary precaution; and when a person has put those forward in a declaration, and enrolled himself in a class or section where he is known, I think it will be difficult to show how personation is to take place. It is to be observed, this assurance is not dependent on morals, but on natural result. It requires no certificates from medical men; for had we a pestilence, it might be trying to the resources of Life Assurance Societies, but it would add to the wealth of a deferred Annuity Association, and it could not inconvenience Government, but would, in some measure, act as a counterpoise to the inconvenience which seems to be apprehended from the savings bank; and it would be the plainest of all plain business, as the time of payment and amount of payments, after they were once entered, would be unchangeable as to amount and time. I will now show how I intend the scheme should be carried into practice:

Constitution of the Society.

To enable persons, in the years of profitable labour, to make a provision for old age, Be it Enacted, That there be founded a Society, under the name of the "British Deferred Annuity Society;" and be it authorized to receive money on the following terms and conditions:— That persons may become members by signing and getting testified the annexed Declaration (No. 1.), in the manner prescribed, and paying fourteen consecutive half-yearly payments in May and November, according to the premiums in Table (No. 1), to secure an annuity of fifty shillings annually, after the person attains the age of sixty; or as many fifty shillings as the person may think proper to purchase; a shilling annually must be paid in the month of May, to place the person's identity beyond dispute: persons, if they had rather accomplish the business by one payment, to adopt Declaration (No. 2), and Table (No. 2); but there must be in this case an annual shilling paid in the month of May for the same end (the annuity to be paid in two half-yearly payments, in April and October). The first day of payment that follows the annuitant's attaining his sixtieth year, will seldom coincide; therefore the amount due is to be reckoned, with the exception of odd days and a week. The annuitant, if he should think proper to run the risk, may defer receiving his annuity when he attains the age of sixty, as its increase annually is considerable; in five years it nearly doubles. The sections of the "British Deferred Annuity Society," are to appoint the savings bank agents,

or

or any person they may deem trust-worthy to transact their business, who will have to keep an account corresponding with one kept in London; and on his receiving the periodical payments, immediately to transmit them to London, for which a statement will be returned; and when the money will be bought into the public securities, in the name of the "British Deferred Annuity Society." The actuary to transmit the annexed policies according to the manner of purchase on receiving the premiums. To place the Society on safe ground, money is to be reckoned at 3½ per cent., and the calculations are to be made from tables that estimate life comparatively high; but should more be made with the money, or should a pestilence take place, or should the experience of the Society justify any increase over the amount promised to the annuitants, it is to be given in proportion to each individual member's just claim. The annuity is to be paid the annuitant on his presenting himself, in preference to any previously-executed order, as these annuities are not transferable.

Note.—It is contrary to principle to interfere with persons disposing of what is their own; but to allow it in the commencement of such a business, might perplex it, whatever may be done at a future time.

(No. 1.)

DECLARATION to be made by Persons who solicit to become Members of the "BRITISH DEFERRED ANNUITY SOCIETY."

I, JOHN JENKINS, carpenter, of the parish of St. Mary, in the county of Glamorgan, but born in the parish of Coity, in the said county; I served my apprenticeship to Howel Rees, of Cadoxton, am the son of Henry Jenkins and Mary Howel. My father is by trade a shoemaker; I solicit to become a member of the "British Deferred Annuity Society," and to enter myself in the Swansea section of the same. I was born May 10, 1812, and am now in my 25th year. I have sent 25 *s.* 6 *d.*, which is my first half-yearly payment, according to your Tables, towards securing me an annuity of 10 *l.* during my life, after I attain the age of 60, provided I shall pay the other 13 consecutive half-yearly payments, and an annual payment of 1 *s.* in the month of May, to place my identity beyond dispute. In the event of the death of a member of the "British Deferred Annuity Society" coming to my knowledge, I promise to make it known to the actuary of the district I may reside at, and I promise not to withhold any information that may be of use to the Society; and I do hereby agree, that this declaration be the basis of my claim on the "British Deferred Annuity Society;" and I do agree, if my averment with regard to my age be untrue, all money that is or shall be paid to the Society on my account, shall be forfeited, and I cease to have any claim on the Society, and I agree to be subject to the rules and regulations of the Society; as witness my hand this 5th day of May 1837. *John Jenkins.*

We, the undersigned, certify, That we know the above-named John Jenkins, and consider what he has declared, to be true; and should any circumstance in the affairs of the "British Deferred Annuity Society" render it necessary, we shall be able to speak to his identity, which we promise to do.

John Walters
Morgan Jones
Herbert Thomas
} Members of the Swansea section of the "British Deferred Annuity Society."

(No. 2.)

DECLARATION to be made by Persons who solicit to become Members of the "BRITISH DEFERRED ANNUITY SOCIETY."

I, JAMES LLOYD, mason, now of the parish of Wick, in the county of Glamorgan; I was born in the parish of Margam, in the same county; I served my apprenticeship to Morgan Jenkin, of the parish of St. Bride's. I am the son of E. Lloyd and Mary James, of Langan; my father was by trade a weaver. I solicit to become a member of the "British Deferred Annuity Society," and to enter myself a member in the Bridgend section of the same. I was born May 10, 1812, and am now in my 25th year. I have sent ten pounds and nine-pence, which is the sum necessary, according to your Table (No. 2), to secure me an annuity of seven pounds and ten shillings after I attain the age of sixty; but I am to pay one shilling annually at May, until I am entitled to my annuity, to place my identity beyond dispute, and which, if I neglect, I render myself liable to a fine not exceeding five shillings for every such omission. In the event of the death of a member of the "British Deferred Annuity Society" coming to my knowledge, I promise to make it known to the actuary of the district I may reside at, and I promise not to withhold any information that may be of use to the Society; and I do hereby agree, that this declaration be the basis of my claim on the "British Deferred Annuity Society;" and I do agree if my averment, with regard

to my age be untrue, the money I have paid, or may pay, to the Society, shall be forfeited, and I cease to have any claim whatsoever on the Society; and I agree to be subject to the rules and regulations of the Society; as witness my hand, this 5th day of May 1837.

James Lloyd.

We, the undersigned, certify, That we know the above James Lloyd, and consider what he has declared, to be correct; and should any circumstance in the affairs of the "British Deferred Annuity Society" render it necessary, we shall be able to speak to his identity, which we promise to do.

Morgan James
Robert Jones
Matthew Howell
} Members of the Bridgend section of the "British Deferred Annuity Society."

(No. 1.)

Policy of Admission to the "British Deferred Annuity Society."

John Jenkins, on the terms of your declaration, and the rules of the Society, you are admitted a member of the Swansea section of the "British Deferred Annuity Society;" and I acknowledge receiving 25 *s.* 6 *d.*, which is your first half-yearly payment towards securing you an annuity of 10 *l.* per annum after you have attained the age of 60, and when you have paid 13 half-yearly consecutive payments of the same amount, and one shilling annually in May to that time, to place your identity beyond doubt.

John Chapman, Actuary, London.

Witness, *A. B.*

(No. 2.)

Policy of Admission to the "British Deferred Annuity Society."

James Lloyd, on the terms of your declaration, and the rules of the Society, you are admitted a member of the Bridgend section of the "British Deferred Annuity Society;" and I acknowlege receiving ten pounds and nine-pence, which will entitle you, when you have paid annually in May one shilling, till you have attained the age of 60, to secure your identity, seven pounds and ten shillings for life afterwards.

John Chapman, Actuary, London.

Witness, *A. B.*

Table (No. 1.)

A Table of Annual Payments, to continue for Seven Years, to secure an Annuity of Fifty Shillings after the Persons of the under-mentioned Ages attain the Age of Sixty.—The Premiums to be paid in Two Half-yearly Payments, May and November.

Age.	£.	*s.*	*d.*
15	–	7	6
20	–	9	6
25	–	12	9
30	–	16	6
35	1	1	6
40	1	8	–
45	1	19	6
50	2	14	–

Table (No. 2.)

Single Sums necessary for Persons of the under-mentioned Ages to pay to secure an Annuity of Fifty Shillings for Life, after they attain the Age of Sixty.

Age.	£.	*s.*	*d.*
15	2	1	9
20	2	12	6
25	3	6	11
30	4	6	2
35	5	11	9
40	7	6	4
45	9	16	–

THIRTY-SEVENTH, THIRTY-EIGHTH, AND THIRTY-NINTH

REPORTS

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
1 *June* 1838.

[*Price 9 d.*]

*** *These Reports have been printed and circulated a Secondtime, on account of a mistake which occurred in the Appendices to the former Reports, and which stand corrected here.*

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FORTIETH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
7 *June* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

THE REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - p. iii
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - - p. 1

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

7 *June* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Jovis, 7° die Junii, 1838.

William Edward Hickson, Esq. - - - - - - p. 1
William Shadbolt, Esq. - - - - - - - p. 15
The Rev. *John George Storie* - - - - - - p. 18

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 7° die Junii, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Miles.	Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. Baines.	Mr. Walker.

Mr. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

William Edward Hickson, Esq. was called in; and Examined.

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13131. *Chairman.*] ARE you one of the guardians of the poor of the West London Union?—I am.

13132. Are you also one of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the state of the hand-loom weavers?—I am.

13133. Have you had great experience in the administration of relief to the poor, and generally in parochial management?—I have necessarily, as a member of the board of guardians, some practical acquaintance with the administration of the Poor Law Amendment Bill; it is a point to which I have paid at various times very considerable attention.

13134. How long have you been a member of the board of guardians?—For the last six months, the whole period since we have been formed into a union; it is one of the most recently formed unions.

13135. You have been in the habit of attending constantly?—Very.

13136. Has your attention been called to the system of electing guardians by lists?—Yes; that is a subject to which, at a previous period, I took the opportunity of calling the attention of the Commissioners; I have had some conversation with Mr. Frankland Lewis on the subject; it appears one of the defects of the system, the manner in which the principle of election is carried out; the principle of representation is of course invariably the same; that is, the rate-payers elect local representatives or guardians, but the manner in which that principle is carried out is widely different in different districts; and it appears to me the results are also widely different. For instance, if I reside in one part of the country I am called on as an inhabitant and rate-payer of a small parish to elect one guardian, or one local representative; if I reside in another part of the country, and find myself an inhabitant of a large parish, I am called on to elect perhaps 30 local representatives, some of the boards of guardians consisting of 30 members; now, though I may be a very qualified person to find one individual who may be a fit and proper local representative for that district, it by no means follows I am qualified to find 20 or 30 individuals equally fit and qualified to act as local representatives: whenever I have been called on to act in this manner I have felt myself exceedingly puzzled, and very much at a loss indeed; there are very few persons whose acquaintance is so large in a neighbourhood that they can immediately, without assistance, find out 20 or 30 local representatives fit to take on themselves the discharge of an onerous duty.

13137. If a large town, called on to elect a great number of guardians in consequence of its great population, were to be divided into wards for the purpose of electing the guardians, each ward to elect one or at most two guardians, do you think that would tend to a more satisfactory result?—Unquestionably; wherever that principle is not followed out, that is to say, where the electors are called on to give a vote for more than one or two representatives, instead of a system of representation we have a system of nomination. The election falls into the hands of a local junta; a few individuals meet perhaps in a public-house parlour, and put forth their list of persons to be chosen, and a few individuals meet elsewhere,

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and put forth their list; the electors find themselves in the situation of being obliged perhaps to vote for the extremes of either party.

13138. You mean where lists are put forward and supported by powerful bodies in the parish, it would be difficult for individuals wishing to make a selection and to except names from the list, to obtain any sufficient support for any individual name he might wish to bring forward?—Yes.

13139. The parish having been generally canvassed, it is presumed, for the whole list?—Yes; and in a vast majority of the electors I find a perfect ignorance of the qualifications of a majority of the candidates; I hold it perfectly impossible, where there are 30 guardians, that every elector can be fully conversant with the qualifications of the whole of the 30.

13140. In a large and populous parish probably few of the electors are conversant with the character and qualifications of the generality of the inhabitants?—Certainly not; but where I am called on to elect one or two representatives, I would take the trouble to find out their qualifications, whether I had any acquaintance with them or not; but where I am called on to elect 20 or 30, the case is very different.

13141. Does it not often happen when the election of these people takes place by lists, the lists are sometimes confined to particular districts of the town, and that the remaining districts of the town are in truth without representation?—Yes; that is another point I must notice, that by the list system there is no representation of the minority; though I hold it to be a sound principle that the majority should govern, yet it is also a sound principle that the minority in any district should have some share in the local representation. For instance, I find that different classes of voters reside in different parts of the districts. The poorer classes of voters all reside in one neighbourhood. Suppose a district to be so constituted that the majority should consist of a richer class of rate-payers, the minority of poor rate-payers would not be represented at all on the list system, but they would in a ward system; suppose a district was divided into different wards, the poorer district having a ward of its own, in that case the poor electors would nominate one or two representatives; on the list system, supposing the majority were wholly composed of rich rate-payers, the others would be entirely exclusive.

13142. Mr. *Freshfield.*] So if the poor predominated, they would elect the whole of the guardians?—Yes.

13143. *Chairman.*] Do you think the election of guardians by wards less likely to be governed by party feeling and less productive of party animosity than election by lists?—I have no doubt that would be the case.

13144. Have you ever considered to what extent this system of dividing parishes into wards might be carried, as to what should be the extent of the population of any ward?—No, I have not, as to the precise number of the electors to be called on to vote for a definite number of representatives; I think the rule should be, that not more than two representatives should be chosen for any one district.

13145. Supposing a town was, under the existing system, ordered to elect 30 guardians, you would propose that should be divided into 15 wards?—Yes.

13146. Are you acquainted with any town in which this arrangement of elections by wards has taken place under the Municipal Act?—I am an inhabitant householder in the city of London, where the common councilmen of London are annually elected; we have there the list system for the election of common councilmen, which was perhaps the first thing which drew my attention to the mischievous result of its operation; though I have been an inhabitant of the ward of Farringdon Without for many years, yet I am not at the present moment personally acquainted with the whole of the 16 representatives for that ward; there are 16 common councilmen chosen as our representatives for the ward of Farringdon Without on the list system to which I have drawn the attention of the Committee.

13147. Has that long prevailed in the city of London in the election of the common council?—Always, to my remembrance.

13148. What inconvenience do you find resulting from it?—One is, that we are called upon to choose persons with whom we are not even personally acquainted; and another is, that it degenerates in the course of a few years, and has degenerated in the ward of Farringdon Without, into a system of self election: there seems to be, every St. Thomas's day, a tacit understanding among the members of

of the common council to stand by each other; I always find that where there are 16 local representatives they agreed to stand by each other to return each other if possible; each of those representatives having his own 16 friends or a greater number; the 16 multiplied by 16 makes quite a host, which it is impossible to resist; it is the most powerful election committee possibly to be found.

13149. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Your proposition would be to subdivide the ward?—Yes, so that not more than two members of the common council should be elected for any one part of the ward.

13150. *Chairman.*] The same principle you would apply to the election of guardians?—Yes; in truth, as far as the election of guardians is concerned, it is placed on a much more satisfactory footing; we elect by parishes, not for the whole ward.

13151. Do you find any inconvenience in the present system of electing guardians with respect to the property qualification of voters, either by proxy or otherwise?—I cannot personally speak to that subject; we have not had any contest.

13152. Mr. *Baines.*] Does the law, as it at present stands, allow of your electing guardians in any other way than by the whole parish; is it competent to divide the parishes into wards by any existing authority?—I have understood, from personal communication with the Poor Law Commissioners, that the law is in that state that they have not power to subdivide parishes in the way I have proposed.

13153. Therefore, to carry into effect the object you have recommended, it would be necessary that the law should undergo an alteration to confer that power?—Yes; I think they require an extension of their powers, so as to enable them to consolidate small parishes and subdivide large ones; the principle of division is carried to too great an extent in the city of London within their wards.

13154. *Chairman.*] The parishes are very small?—Yes.

13155. With a very small population, some of them?—Very small; the consequence is, that the board of guardians is very numerous; I find that all large bodies of representatives are inexpedient for the transaction of business.

13156. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You are probably aware that the same inconvenience exists in some places: one guardian is elected for a parish containing a very small population?—No doubt it is so.

13157. Mr. *Baines.*] Should you not consider it a very great evil in the administration of the new Poor Law to have party feeling, a mere political party feeling, prevailing, rather than those feelings that would arise out of an anxiety to administer the law well?—I think it is very desirable, exceedingly so, that party feeling should not be mixed up with the administration of the Poor Law; on our own board we have persons of all parties, those who call themselves Whigs, Tories or Radicals; the best feeling, I am happy to say, exists among them; one very desirable object to be attained by the new system is, that of bringing respectable persons belonging to different parties together; it promotes amicable feelings in the neighbourhood, and brings us to have a better understanding with each other.

13158. But there is great danger, is there not, in large parishes, of the present system degenerating into a party question by the lists, one party putting forward a list with one set of names, another with another?—Yes.

13159. And in that way producing a nomination that is rather political than parochial?—Yes, decidedly so, as far as my experience can be taken as any guide, having invariably observed it degenerates into a mere party system; it is a trial of strength between one party and another to gain the day.

13160. Mr. *Miles.*] Are the guardians of the West London Union elected by lists?—We are under the Commissioners.

13161. Are the guardians elected by lists?—No, not by lists; only the common councilmen.

13162. You do not speak from practical information as far as your own union is concerned?—No, not as far as our own union; my experience of the list system has reference chiefly to the election of common councilmen and members forming the committee of management in the literary institutions to which I belong.

13163. Mr. *Baines.*] Supposing the elections to be in wards, you think persons better qualified to administer the law would be found to be elected than supposing

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them to be in large bodies where there might be put in lists, nomination lists, as you have called them, persons who are calculated to be influenced by considerations other than that of the advantageous administration of the law?—Undoubtedly. That is precisely my view of the case.

13164. You have said that where there is a division into wards there is an advantage in this, that the minority has a voice as well as the majority?—Yes.

13165. The minority, I suppose, would have a voice in this way, according to your experience, that is, by some wards electing one class of guardians, and other wards electing another class of guardians, but the majority of every ward would always return the guardian?—Undoubtedly; of course the majority of every ward; I suppose I am speaking of a district divided into wards; supposing there should be four divisions in that district, four wards in that district, three of them would, perhaps, return one class of guardians, the fourth would return guardians of another class; in that case, the fourth would be the minority; but there would be in each case guardians representing what they imagine to be their local interest.

13166. They would be the minority of the whole, but the majority of that ward?—Yes, precisely.

13167. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Supposing political opinion to be one way, as to three wards, and decidedly the other way as to the fourth ward, it might happen that the three wards in which a particular opinion predominated would return three members, whereas the fourth ward, if the opposite opinion greatly predominated, would return another of a different description, yet the three might be the minority of the whole of the fourth?—That I imagine could not be the case, supposing the district to be equally divided; an exact proportion of electors in every ward, 1,000 electors forming one ward, 1,000 forming another, in that case the minority could not return the greater part, or the whole of the representatives.

13168. What I mean is this, you have supposed a case in which classes of persons might live in different wards; there would be the distinction between the poor and the rich; so as to politics they might be divided in like manner?—Decidedly.

13169. But you think it not so probable?—No; I am not certain that I catch the import of the question.

13170. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you happen to know whether there is any place in which the object of the election has failed, owing to the town not being divided into wards?—Yes, Lambeth, more particularly; and when I visited that parish, and their industrial establishment at Norwood, I regretted to find that, owing to the influence of what must be termed party feeling, the operation of the new system is very materially impeded.

13171. Has there not been a great deal of difficulty arising within your own knowledge from this system of self-nomination?—As far as my personal experience is concerned, it chiefly affects, as I explained to the Committee before, the election of common councilmen for the Ward of Farringdon Without; I have considered very great inconvenience has arisen out of that system; we have certainly any thing but such a set of representatives as we require in that ward; it appears to me that it may be entirely traced to the list system; if it were to be divided into electoral districts, each returning about one or two, we should have a very superior set of men.

13172. Do you not think it would be to the advantage of any union, that the guardians should be elected from divisions of that union that might combine pretty nearly in equal proportions, the rich and the poor?—Yes; I think it is extremely desirable, and in particular with reference to differences in religious opinions.

13173. Would not the ward system most completely effect that purpose?—I am satisfied that that would be the case, and I consider it an exceedingly desirable object to be effected.

13174. And because in some parts of the town the wards might consist of what may be called the opulent part of the population, and in other parts of the town the wards might consist of the poorer part?—Yes.

13175. They would each have their representatives at the board of guardians?—Decidedly, and possessing the extreme confidence, the decided confidence of all parties.

13176. Would it not conciliate the confidence of all parties to know each had representatives

representatives at the board, and who might be supposed to be watching over their own interests?—I am quite satisfied that would be the result.

13177. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you think political feelings would have the same predominance in choosing guardians for the administration of the affairs of the poor, as they would in choosing common councilmen?—I think it would be precisely a parallel case in both instances.

13178. Do you not think that political feeling and the desire of rising in rank, in one case, may have some influence as to becoming one of the common council, which would not be the case as respected the guardians of the poor?—No; as far as my experience is a guide, I find political feeling to mix itself up with the election of the board of guardians, more especially on the list system.

13179. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you find it mixes itself with the election of vestrymen?—Yes, entirely; but in St. Sepulchre's we have a select vestry; it is a subject of great dissatisfaction.

13180. Do you happen to know, in those parishes in which Sir John Cam Hobhouse's Bill is introduced, there is a struggle in the election of vestrymen?—I am not aware that it is always the case; I reside now in St. George's, Hanover-square; I have not been conscious of any recent struggle.

13181. *Chairman.*] Have you paid much attention to the system of schools of instruction for the poor people?—Yes; I have devoted a great deal of time and attention to that part of the subject, and I am, perhaps, more conversant with it than many persons who have interested themselves generally in the question; I have visited, for example, nearly the whole of the metropolitan prisons, to see what is the connexion between pauperism and crime, and especially as to the cause of juvenile delinquency; I was very much struck, indeed startled, with the results of my inquiries; I went to Newgate on one occasion, and I found there a lad of 16, who was lying under sentence of death, who told me he had spent 15 years of his life in a workhouse; he was a thorough workhouse-bred youth, and had not been six or seven months out of the workhouse of St. Mary-le-bone before he was taken up for stealing a gold watch; he was lying there under sentence of death; I visited the new prison of Tothill-fields, and found 25 juvenile delinquents at the tread-mill; I examined each of them personally, and found 13 of them that were workhouse-bred children; I found the same results at Bridewell, and various other metropolitan prisons.

13182. Mr. *Baines.*] You have mentioned particular cases; in those cases could those persons read and write?—In some cases they could; in others they could not.

13183. *Chairman.*] Those persons you mention, those young persons, had been in the workhouse, you say?—Yes.

13184. Had they been principally in the workhouses of the metropolis, or in the immediate neighbourhood of London?—Chiefly of the metropolis; that was not invariably the case; in the Penitentiarythere was a number of youths brought from all parts of the country, a large portion of them at a considerable distance from London, some 300 miles; I found many of them workhouse children.

13185. Do you know any thing of the system of education generally pursued in the workhouses of London?—Yes; I was led in the course of this examination of the prisons to direct my attention to the state of workhouse training in the metropolitan districts; I certainly found that the system pursued was as bad as is possible to be imagined.

13186. Generally in the workhouses?—Yes, almost without exception.

13187. Tell us what the system is; are they taught to read and write, the elementary parts of education generally?—Perhaps in a majority of cases there is a profession made of teaching them to read and write; but even that mere mechanical training is not satisfactorily followed out, so that a vast number of children grow up without being taught to read and write; but in many cases I found that overseers of the poor, or guardians, in some instances even members of the new board of guardians, were decidedly hostile to children being taught to read and write; that was the case at the Barking workhouse, a fishing town, 12 miles from London; I visited that workhouse; I found that the guardians had decidedly objected to teaching the children to write, at least as far as the girls were concerned, and I remember the matron who gave me the information, who said that she very much approved of the sentiments of the guardians on that head, and that she did not see what children who were to be household servants had to do with the art of writing; she had found dreadful results arising from children knowing

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how to write; she told me one instance that occurred of her own knowledge of a female pauper who by some means had learned to write, actually carrying on a love correspondence with a pauper of the opposite sex.

13188. You are aware, by the instructions of the Commissioners, it is provided that children in workhouses should be taught to read and write?—Yes, I am; but though that regulation had been issued by the Poor Law Commissioners prior to my visit at the workhouse of Barking, I found it had not been then acted on.

13189. That the guardians had not acted on it?—No; on account of the decided hostility among many boards of guardians to education; I hope this Committee will strengthen the hands of the Commissioners in that respect, for I am sensible they have very up-hill work to pursue as to a better system of moral and industrial training for the poor.

13190. As to education, give us a notion of what it is in the workhouses in London and its neighbourhood which you have visited?—The principal feature of it has been, up to a very recent period, that of employing paupers in the management of the system of education; any of the paupers in the house have been thought to be persons properly qualified to superintend the moral and industrial training of children; it is in consequence of that system being pursued, chiefly, the results have been what I have described.

13191. Are the children kept to school at regular hours, and made to attend to habits of cleanliness and order in the school?—They are beginning to be so attended to in the new unions; it was not the case in the old parishes.

13192. In the new unions, with which you are acquainted, have they engaged regular schoolmasters and mistresses, and who appear to be competent to their business?—They generally engage such people, but in many instances they are persons I consider exceedingly incompetent and unqualified for their business.

13193. What is the description of education you think it desirable to give to this class of persons?—There should be a moral and industrial system of education.

13194. Those are general terms, but would you have them taught reading and writing, and the common elements of arithmetic; and, independently of those elementary parts of education, would you think it desirable they should be trained to different pursuits and trades, and occupations of life?—Undoubtedly; but the principal feature of a system of education I should advocate for the class of poor children, to whom I am alluding, would be based on an entire separation from pauperism; I am satisfied nothing can be done towards improving the present system of moral and industrial training without taking poor children from the workhouse entirely, wholly removing them from the sight and sound of pauperism; it seems a cruel and pernicious system that is pursued with regard to those children, particularly in respect to the case of an illegitimate child, or a foundling who comes into a workhouse at the age of three, four or six months, and is to remain there till it is of age to be apprenticed out, that is, to remain there for 14 years; in the case to which I have referred the Committee, of this boy lying under sentence of death, he had spent upwards of 14 years in a workhouse; whatever may be attempted in the way of classification, and a great deal is, I hold it impossible any classification can be perfect until there is a complete separation from adult paupers of children who shall stay so long; you may have a classification to last six months, but you cannot extend it over a term of years, and as far as my experience is any guide, I should say, that with respect to the classification that has been attempted in the new union workhouses, I find in a good many of them it has wholly broken down, that is to say, it is entirely ineffective; the one thing to be done is to take the children away and establish for them separate district or county industrial schools.

13195. When you say, in many cases a classification established in the new union workhouses has broken down and failed, do you apply that to cases of separation of children from adult paupers, or generally to classification as between the adult paupers themselves?—No; my rule relates chiefly to the separation of adult paupers from children, which is the one object to be effected; I was told by the master of Eastry workhouse, in Kent, near Dover, that they had in the house at the time of my visit 13 common prostitutes lying there in a state of loathsome disease; I think that it is of the very last importance that every one of this class of inmates should be wholly and entirely separated from girls, especially

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especially those arriving at the age of puberty ; that strict separation is impossible so long as both classes remain under the same roof.

13196. How far do you propose to carry separation ; do you propose, in the first place, that the children should be separated from adult paupers, or do you not? —Certainly.

13197. You would propose to effect that not by placing them in separate parts of the same house, but by having houses or schools in which children should reside, altogether separate from the workhouse ?—Yes.

13198. So far for the children ; but with respect to the adult paupers, what increase of separation beyond that which is now established would you propose to adopt ?—In the case of adult paupers I am inclined to think separation is now sufficiently perfect for these unions ; the adult paupers, especially able-bodied men or women, do not remain for a very long period in the house ; for any class of persons remaining in a workhouse only six or eight months it is possible to have a perfect system of separation, but the case is very different when you have young children to remain eight or ten or twelve years.

13199. In the case of the prostitutes whom you mentioned in Eastry workhouse ; how would you contrive that they should be altogether separated from grown-up women, whom they might contaminate by their society ; how would you propose to effect that ?—By similar arrangements to those now carried out ; it is possible to keep them in a ward by themselves ; there might be an extra degree of vigilance exercised ; but I wish, in the case of children, to remove them from the immoral atmosphere, from the knowledge of the fact that there is this class of persons in the same building with themselves, so that the fact of this existence might be concealed from them.

13200. You propose to establish, as suggested by another witness, probably, district schools, or county schools, or schools to which three or four, or a number of unions, in proportion to the population, might contribute, and that those schools should be entirely separated from the workhouse ?—Yes ; and I must be allowed to state that the West London Union, in endeavouring to effect that object, opened a communication with several other unions, to ascertain if it was not practicable to effect a junction for educational objects ; we have 200 children, and we shall have a conference with a deputation from the East London Union, who have 300 ; we have opened a communication with the Kensington Union, with the same object ; and we propose to have an establishment containing 600 or 800 children, which perhaps may become a model school for the rest of the country ; I hope it will.

13201. Is there not an Act of Parliament which provides that children under a certain age, who may be taken to workhouses, should be removed to a certain distance from London ?—Yes.

13202 What is that Act ?—The 7th of George 3d ; I think the chapter is 4.

13203. Does that Act apply to the city of London ?—It does not, within the walls ; it applies to the out-parishes.

13204. What is the practice within the city of London walls ; do they keep children in workhouses within the city ?—At present children belonging to the City of London Union are at Mr. Aubin's, at Norwood.

13205. In the event of your forming this arrangement with the Kensington and the East London Union, would you propose to establish schools some little distance from London ?—Yes, on account of the necessity of obtaining some exercise ground for children.

13206. Describe to us the result of your experience and observation, if you please ; describe in detail what species of education you would think it desirable to give to children so circumstanced ?—In the first instance, with regard to intellectual training, we should require them to be taught reading, writing and arithmetic, and in a more satisfactory manner than they have hitherto been taught ; as to the knowledge of arithmetic in particular, I found it had been extremely neglected in all the workhouse schools I had visited ; I examined, in a great many instances, the girls of workhouses, to ascertain if they could count three or add three together, up as far as 12 or 16, I found the majority of girls incapable of adding those small figures ; they would get as far as 12, then they would stop, incapable of adding 12 to three, which shows how much that department of instruction is neglected ; then I found again, as to industrial training, that was a part that had been very little attended to indeed. As a general rule, the boys were employed in such occupation as picking

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oakum and sorting bristles, occupations which I think to be wholly useless; no person chooses a boy as an apprentice or household servant in consequence of his ability to pick oakum or sort bristles; in place of this, I would have all children taught a little tailoring, a little shoemaking and a little of the art of carpentry, so that every boy might know how to mend his own jacket and cobble his own shoes, and drive a nail in his own cottage, when it might be required.

13207. As to girls, do you not think it desirable they should be taught something of household occupation?—Exceedingly desirable.

13208. And the common arts of making clothes, mantua-making, or whatever may be likely to assist them in their various occupations of life?—Yes; I may be allowed to say, as to intellectual instruction, though I know the prejudice against it, I am disposed to carry it much further than the boards of guardians will generally permit, in the present state of public feeling on the subject; from the experience I have had as one of the commissioners in the inquiry, affecting the state of the hand-loom weavers, I am satisfied of the absolute necessity of carrying the intellectual instruction of the working classes much further than has been hitherto attempted. We have not in this country had schools for knowledge, but merely mechanical schools to teach the arts of reading, writing and arithmetic; but it is exceedingly desirable that intellectual instruction should be carried so far as to encourage a spirit of enterprize among the working classes, and a spirit of honourable ambition, which unfortunately does now generally exist. I have conversed with a great number of hand-loom weavers, whom we found starving, especially in the winter season, on such wages as 7 *s.* a week; I have said to them, "Why do you not turn your attention to some other kind of occupation or employment; why not turn out and see what other fields of labour are open for the working classes in this country?" or some such advice; I found that owing to the defective state of intellectual cultivation in schools; their attention had never been occupied in that manner. If a person talked to them about the rate of wages in Canada or South Australia, or the Cape of Good Hope, or other dependent colonies, where a wide field is opening for the industrious classes, they were in perfect ignorance of the existence of those places; that arises from the prejudice that exists among school committees against teaching the elementary principles of such a science of geography; I found not only in workhouses, but in many of the National and British schools, the master is forbidden in some instances to hang a map on the walls of the school rooms.

13209. Mr. *Baines.*] You mentioned reading, writing, and accounts, and you mentioned intellectual culture; would you also include moral and religious instruction?—Most decidedly; it is on account of moral and religious instruction being rendered effective that I would have children separated from the workhouse establishment; I would not attempt to establish schools in workhouses, but I would take the schools from the workhouses; it is impossible for mere mechanical training, such as reading, writing and arithmetic, and other useful arts, to counteract the demoralizing tendency of only occasional contact with a pauper; if a child has only half an hour's conversation with one of the paupers in the house once a month, it is almost impossible for an angel from heaven sent to manage the affairs of workhouses to counteract the demoralizing effect of such contact.

13210. Do you not suppose, with an education of this kind, you would have children sent out of your school in a situation that would be likely to make them much more useful members of society, and much less likely to be dependent on parochial assistance in other times?—Undoubtedly.

13211. In that way would not any additional expenditure that an union might incur be amply repaid to them by diminishing the drain on their parish resources?—Undoubtedly; the system I advocate would be the best economy in the end; I have looked through parish books to ascertain the earliest period at which a given family became chargeable to a parish; I found it impossible to trace so far back as to arrive at the commencement of the pauperism of the family; I have taken such names as James Gibson in the parish book; I found Gibson the father receiving parochial relief, the grandfather receiving it, and so on, till we lost all means of tracing the family further; but now by a better moral and industrial training than children of paupers have received, we could produce such a spirit of self-reliance and independence, that they would cease to be paupers.

13212. *Chairman.*] Do you think there would be danger in giving a pauper the advantage over independent labourers, they not being able to give their children

children the same education?—Not the slightest danger; I am aware that has been urged as an argument against the superior system of moral and industrial training which I have tried to introduce, but I should be very happy if I thought the danger existed, for it would make me believe the working classes of this country appreciate the value of a good education, which I am satisfied from experience they do not; I would undertake to knock up the best school in existence, as far as moral and industrial training is concerned, by establishing a rival in the same neighbourhood, in which nothing should be taught, having a schoolmaster not able to read and write himself, but in which two suits of clothes should be given away every year, a pair of stockings and a new hat; the poor look to the physical comforts of their children, not to their intellectual cultivation.

13213. Do you not think those children, if educated as you propose, would turn out more valuable and useful members of society, and would be found to possess advantages in various pursuits of life, the effect of which would be to give a great stimulus to parochial education among all classes of society?—Yes; I have very little doubt that it would be the result.

13214. And, so far in that respect, though it might expose labourers' children in competition for a moment to disadvantage, ultimately you think it would be likely to have a great advantage on the whole community?—I do not see that it would expose the independent labourers to any disadvantage even for the moment; our object is, of course, having those children under our control, to train them up to be as useful members of society as possible; it is no argument against that system that other children are brought up to be useless and mischievous; it is a great misfortune that they should be so, but it is no reason why we should imitate the example.

13215. Mr. *Miles*.] May not the education which the independent labourer is enabled to give to his children depend very much on his earnings?—No doubt.

13216. Of course the education in these industrial schools for paupers would be given entirely gratuitously?—Yes.

13217. Take, for instance, a man, an independent labourer, who struggles and brings up five or six children without parochial relief; do you think there would be a possibility that he from his honest resources could have the power of affording that education to his children which you give in these instructional schools?—He has not, certainly, in the existing state of society, and I should be extremely happy to see that defect in our institutions remedied by some legislative enactment for the purpose of national education, rendering education universal.

13218. Taught on the gratuitous principle?—Yes.

13219. Supposing that system to be adopted, children turned out from those instructional schools would be very much superior in every respect to the children of the independent labourer now undergoing the only system of instruction they have in their power in the parochial schools, would they not?—They would, undoubtedly, under some circumstances; for the children of those who are called independent labourers, in some instances, are brought up to be common thieves; undoubtedly there would be a superiority, in that case, for example; but there are other cases in which superiority would not be so decided,—cases where the independent labourer has maintained the character of steadiness, honesty, sobriety and industry all his life; I have known many children brought up by such parents form characters of very superior nature; I doubt whether under any system of moral and industrial training we could bring up children in schools to exceed that of children educated sometimes by common working men; I remember an instance of a child; I examined the child of a coal-heaver, a class of persons I should not have expected much from; I never saw a boy in my life whose manners were so gentle, whose demeanor was so courteous, whose answers were so intelligent, yet belonging to a class of children who had not been taught to read and write.

13220. Had he been taught to read and write?—No, he had not; but as to reading and writing, I do not underrate such accomplishments, but I do not estimate them so highly as moral and industrial training; moral training is of far greater consequence.

13221. *Chairman*.] Do you not think the independent labourer, disposed to give the best education in his power to his children, would always have this advantage, that in domestic training there might be a much greater opportunity

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of learning the common pursuits of industry of any particular class, than in any school where it was taught by masters, and without actual experience?—No doubt that is the case; in fact, children brought up in any educational establishment, not having the advantage of a parent's home, labour under circumstances of great privation as to many departments of common knowledge required in common life.

13222. An agricultural labourer's child, brought up by respectable parents, supposing him to be a boy, would he not be more likely to learn and gradually acquire proficiency in the common occupations of husbandry than by any contrivance that could be adopted in schools?—Very often it would be the case.

13223. In those respects the independent labourer would always possess an advantage over the establishments you have referred to?—Where the parents are persons of superior character; where they are not, then, of course, the reverse would prevail; unfortunately a large proportion of the working classes, as every member of the Committee knows, are men greatly addicted to intemperance and many vices.

13224. Mr. *Baines*.] Would not the effect be, if you introduced this system pretty generally, and it spread over the country, when these young people who have been trained in the schools you propose should become the heads of families, would it not be very likely that they would diffuse that knowledge to others which they had derived from these sources, and in that way it would become much more universal than by any other system?—I have no doubt it would have that tendency; if we educate children of the present generation, when they become parents themselves they will be in a condition to appreciate the advantages of education for their own children, which parents generally, among the working classes of the present day, do not, certainly.

13225. Therefore you would not think, supposing it to be really the case that some advantages were given to those pauper children over the children of independent labourers, you would not think that a sufficient reason for withholding this information from the pauper children?—Certainly not.

13226. Nor for withholding the superior instruction, if superior it may be called, from those who were confided to your care as a parish officer, and which care you must exercise to their benefit to the greatest extent of your power, without regard perhaps to that comparison which might be instituted?—Certainly not; and the difficulty might be met by throwing open those industrial schools to children of the labouring classes belonging to independent labourers; and there is a disposition to that effect, I am happy to say, in the board of guardians to which I belong; it has several times been proposed, that if we succeed in establishing industrial schools we shall throw them open to the children of independent labourers; they can be admitted as day-scholars for a small payment or no payment at all, as might afterwards be arranged.

13227. Mr. *Miles*.] That would only affect one or two neighbouring parishes?—No, of course not.

13228. Do you not think the effect of the industrial training of those pauper children in the arts of shoemaking, carpentry and such common mechanical trades, might have this effect, that all those boys would of course, in any of such trades, be preferred to the children of the agricultural labourer who were not taught any of the rudiments of those trades?—I do not propose that any of those trades shall be fully taught in industrial schools; it would be impracticable to teach to such extent that they could become skilled labourers in those mechanical trades; the amount of industrial training practicable is just to teach the child to mend his own clothes or shoes; we cannot make expert tailors of boys of 14 years of age; that is quite out of the question; those are qualifications which would not affect the farmer so much as the labouring man's family.

13229. Who are generally apprenticed to those trades in the country; what class of children are apprenticed to the trades of shoemaking and tailoring?—I do not know generally that I can specify.

13230. Are they not generally drawn from agricultural labourers?—No, I think not; I think boys who learn tailoring are generally boys whose fathers are tailors; and boys who learn shoemaking are boys whose fathers are shoemakers; and that rule applies very universally; I have not met with many instances of agricultural boys being brought up to the trade of tailors.

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13231. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you know any thing of the state of education in the neighbourhood of Canterbury?—Not exactly, except, my father has landed property in the neighbourhood of Wrotham, 20 miles from the scene of the recent occurrences; I do know something of the deplorable state of ignorance of the Kentish peasantry.

13232. How do you account for that ignorance, which seems to be more extreme than in most other parts of the country; is there any way you have of accounting for it?—It is owing to the defect of educational instruction, the want of a greater number of schools and of more efficient schools than exist where schools have been established; I was very much struck, when our family first went to Kent, with the extreme ignorance the Kentish peasantry displayed; I remember when my father was taken ill that it was left to me to superintend the sending of a waggon, loaded with potatoes and corn to the London market, and a number of packages directed to several persons; I wanted to find a waggoner who could read the directions of those parcels, that they might be delivered to the right parties; we could not find one on the whole of the farm who could read the directions; not one in the neighbourhood; I could not find a man in the parish able to read the directions of the parcels about to be sent to London; last of all, that the parcels might not be improperly delivered, I was obliged to take a boy from a school we had established, whom we had ourselves taught to read and write. Several of the men were interrogated; they told me they had learned a little reading at Sunday schools, but could never get further than spelling painfully through a chapter of the New Testament; that had been entirely forgotten.

13233. *Chairman.*] Do you apprehend any difficulty from difference of religious opinions in the establishment of the schools?—I should imagine not much practical difficulty as to pauper children; we have not met with any in the union to which I myself belong.

13234. Do not pauper children belong to parents of various religious persuasions?—A large majority of them are deserted children; their parents do not interfere; if we could find the parents, in most instances, we should require them to take them out of the house.

13235. You do not anticipate much difficulty?—No, none whatever.

13236. Mr. *Walker.*] Do you find much religious prejudice existing among the labourers in any country or district you have visited?—I have found a great deal of religious fanaticism existing among the labourers of the country; I was very much struck with it, especially among the Cornish peasantry; I was down there the last year; I was struck with extreme cases of fanaticism.

13237. But not of such a nature as to prevent them from sending their children to a general public school to be educated?—Certainly not; I am inclined to think whenever religious principles gain ground, even in the most extreme forms of fanaticism, they are rather favourable to education.

13238. Mr. *Baines.*] You have had an opportunity of observing the state of education in the manufacturing and agricultural districts; being acquainted with both, which should you say was most advanced, the agricultural or the manufacing districts?—The manufacturing, undoubtedly; there is a great deal of indirect education going on in manufactories; whenever large bodies are brought together, there are opportunities for the interchange of thought, the communication of facts and ideas, which do not exist in a rural isolated neighbourhood.

13239. In the manufacturing districts, you found information very defective, you have said?—Extremely so.

13240. And if it could be carried higher, you supposed a good deal of that distress, which exists among the hand-loom weavers, and people of that description, would be diminished by its consequences in pointing out to them the necessity of applying to more beneficial employment and other sources, by which their condition might be altered for the better?—I am satisfied that would be the result; with regard to the importance of carrying intellectual instruction a little further than is attempted now, for the agricultural peasantry especially, there is a case I can mention to the Committee that occurred recently: a friend of ours wrote over from Sydney to send off, if I could find them some honest steady industrious agricultural labourers to him, and holding out certain advantage to them; he promised to give board wages, to the amount of 20 *l.* a year, as much meat as they possibly could eat, provisions in abundance, and a house and garden, rent free; it appeared to me these were very great advantages, and knowing a great number of agricultural able-bodied labourers out of employment, my father proposed it to them: at

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that time I think 100 were out of employment in the neighbourhood of Wrotham, but it could not induce one of those men to accept the proffered terms, though they were almost starving and pauperizing the parishes; the reason was, they received all the statements made to them with the greatest suspicion and distrust; they were in such a state of ignorance they knew nothing whatever of the country to which it was proposed they should go; I am convinced that the defect of intellectual cultivation throws very great impediments in the way of voluntary emigration, which is certainly one thing to encourage in some of our very thickly populated districts in this country.

13241. The *Chairman.*] Have you any observation to make on the qualification of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses who have come under your observation?—At the time I was visiting the workhouses to ascertain what was the system of moral and industrial training, I particularly remarked the actual qualifications of those whom I then found engaged in the work of instruction, which, if it is the pleasure of the Committee, I will state:—It was a very common error under the old system of workhouse management, and one which unhappily still prevails to a considerable extent in the new unions, that it is of little consequence how humble may be the abilities, how limited the attainments, and how indifferent the moral character of the person appointed to be the instructor of pauper children. It is only yet beginning to be understood, that if the teacher be an ignorant man, it is not the circumstance of his attending for a few days or weeks at a model school to learn the method of instruction pursued by Bell and Lancaster, that will enable him to become the medium of imparting useful knowledge, and that it is not possible he can properly enforce upon the minds of others lessons of industry, sobriety and prudence, if he be himself an example of the evil effects of indolence, intemperance and improvidence. Learned men, in the common sense of the word, are certainly not required as schoolmasters for the children of the poor; it has never been proposed to give them what is called a classical education; but it is important that their teachers should be chosen from an educated class, that they should be persons of cultivated minds, well informed upon all subjects to which the attention of youth can be usefully directed, and having an aptitude for teaching by which a child would be enabled to profit by their instructions, and to delight in them; above all, it is necessary that the moral qualifications of the teacher should be of the highest order; so far is this from being of little moment with regard to pauper children, that it is of much more importance in their case than it would be in any other; the child of the pauper has too often had before his eyes, in his own parents, an example of indolence, intemperance and dishonesty, and the taint which that example has communicated must be removed from the mind of the child, before that child can be raised even to a level with the children of a better class; a boy or girl of only 10 years of age, who may become for the first time the inmate of a workhouse, is frequently found to have been trained in habits of duplicity and cunning, and, in common with a very numerous body of neglected children who are suffered to run wild about the streets, has acquired a taste for an idle and vagrant life, has been accustomed to listen to loose and obscene conversation, to make use of coarse and brutalizing language, has, perhaps, been taught to lie, to swear and to steal; and continued watchfulness and great judgment are required on the part of the teacher to eradicate these vices, and to make moral, useful and industrious members of society of those who would otherwise become a pest to the community; the task to be accomplished is obviously one of more than ordinary difficulty, and it is not therefore to be expected that persons fitted to effect the object will be found among those who, having received themselves but a very imperfect education, are scarcely able to appreciate its benefits; these, however, are considerations which have hitherto been entirely set at nought, and will, it is probable, continue to be disregarded until some specific instructions are issued upon the subject by the Poor Law Commissioners; in the old workhouses, any one of the paupers who could read and write, whatever might be his character, was considered equal to the discharge of the duties of a schoolmaster, and in the new workhouses placed under the direction of boards of guardians, although the drunken pauper is generally discarded, his place is mostly supplied by some broken-down tradesman or discharged shopman, and by those whose folly or extravagance have brought them to ruin; or by individuals who, from a want of talent or industry, or sometimes through some bodily infirmity, are incapable of earning the wages of a common day-labourer;

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labourer; the qualifications of the schoolmaster and schoolmistress in workhouses which I visited at the close of 1836 and commencement of the last year, will be seen by the statement which I will now make:—

In St. Sepulchre, Middlesex, one of the paupers, lame, dirty and 70 years of age, receives 1*s.* per week for his services as schoolmaster; he was formerly a bookkeeper at the Golden-lion and other inns; he brought up a large family, but unfortunately they did not turn out well (some of the children are farmed out). In Shoreditch workhouse the schoolmaster was one of the paupers; he boarded and lodged in the house, and was paid 7*s.* a week for teaching the children to read and write; he was 45 years of age; was a cripple, having a paralytic affection of the side, and appeared generally infirm; the schoolmistress was also one of the paupers; that was in November 1836. In St. George the Martyr, Southwark, the schoolmaster was one of the paupers, and received for his services 2*s.* 6*d.* per week; this money may be bequeathed by will, together with 1*s.* per week, paid to a certain number of old men and women in the house, the children were dirty, squalid and miserable; the parish had a nursery out of town, which was then rebuilding; the schoolmaster there was one of the paupers; this was also in November 1836. In Clerkenwell workhouse; two of the paupers officiated as schoolmasters; one of them was formerly in the East India Company's service, but was dismissed for some misconduct; the other was a broker and appraiser, and had had a very good business, but it went entirely to ruin in consequence of his becoming an habitual drunkard; through the effect of drinking he was at one time insane and confined in a lunatic asylum; the schoolmistress was one of the paupers, and unable to write; there were 70 children in the house, besides 73 who were farmed out; this was also in November 1836. In Cripplegate workhouse the schoolmaster was 81 years of age; he was one of the paupers, and received 1*s.* per week; he was formerly a seaman, and at one time master of a vessel, but was disabled by a fall from the mast-head, through which he broke several of his limbs; he was afterwards a clerk at Grocers'-hall; but he lost the situation through some cause which he could not clearly explain; I was informed that he was rather fond of drink, when he could get it; the school-mistress was also one of the paupers; this was also in November 1836. In St. Mary's, Whitechapel, a lad of the age of 18 was the schoolmaster; he had been a pauper all his life, and was of a scrofulous habit of body; he received 2*s.* 6*d.* per week; the schoolmistress was also one of the paupers; she received 1*s.* per week; this was in November 1836. In Saffron-hill workhouse, Holborn Union, the schoolmaster was a pauper, 65 years of age; he used formerly to receive 1*s.* 6*d.* per week for teaching the children, but this had lately been stopped, and his only extra allowance was a pint of beer daily; he had been in the house seven years; he was a gentleman's servant, but met with an accident, by which he was dreadfully ruptured; this was also in November 1836. In St. George's-in-the-East workhouse the schoolmaster had been a pauper all his life time, but appeared somewhat more active and intelligent than most of the same class; he received a salary of 25*l.* per annum, and had 122 boys under his charge; a schoolmistress, not evidently equal to the duties of her office, had recently been engaged at a salary of 20*l.* per annum; this was also in November 1836. In St. Sepulchre's City, the former master of a charity school in the neighbourhood, who was dismissed for incompetency, attended the workhouse two hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and half an hour every other day but Sunday, to instruct the children in reading, writing and arithmetic; he was assisted by a sickly young man, one of the paupers, who acted throughout the greater part of the day as deputy schoolmaster; this young man spent six years in St. Sepulchre's charity school: on inquiry of him what books were used for the instruction of children, he said chiefly Wyse's (Vyse's) Universal Spelling-book; he received 1*s.* per week; this was in December 1836: In Chelsea workhouse, the porter to the house having been found able to read and write, had recently been admitted to the rank of schoolmaster; he received 8*s.* per week; his wife and family lived out of the house, and occasionally received parish relief; he had got 96 boys under his care; the schoolmistress was one of the paupers; she was lame, and had a wooden leg; her salary was 1*s.* per week; this was in December 1836. In Minster workhouse, Isle of Thanet Union, a new schoolmaster had been recently engaged at a salary of 20*l.* per annum. His father was at one time a man of fortune, kept three or four

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hunters, and ruined himself by extravagance; the son had been a farmer, a butcher and a clerk; from some unexplained cause, his wife's relations would not allow her to live with him; the schoolmistress was a respectable young woman, the daughter of the master of the workhouse; she went to a national school at Canterbury to learn the system, but appeared to teach little besides the catechism; this was in February 1837. In Eastry Union workhouse a journeyman shoemaker who had received some little instruction at a school under the patronage of , had been appointed schoolmaster, at a salary of 25 *l.* per annum; the schoolmistress was one of the paupers; an advertisement for a schoolmistress had lately been inserted in one of the papers, but a suitable remuneration not having been offered, no person had applied for the situation; the late schoolmistress was also one of the paupers; she was in the house of correction for misconduct; her offence was of a disgusting nature; she was a very passionate woman, and a child having dirtied the floor she served it as she would have done a cat, rubbing the face of the child in its own filth till it was nearly choaked; this affair made a great sensation in the neighbourhood, and the offence was fully proved against her before a board of magistrates; this was in February 1836. In Buckland workhouse, River Union, the schoolmaster was a draper's shopman; he was the only applicant for the place in answer to an advertisement; his salary was 40 *l.* per annum, but he had to board himself; the schoolmistress was a young woman who formerly kept a day-school; she had to board herself upon a salary of 30*l.* per annum; she evinced an anxiety for the improvement of her pupils. In Elham Union, Eclin-hill workhouse, an old army serjeant was the schoolmaster; his wife was the schoolmistress; they received between them 30*l.* per annum; it was their duty, besides teaching the children, to assist generally in the house; the schoolmaster acted as porter; this was in February 1837. In East Ashford Union, Wellerborough Lees workhouse, the porter acted as schoolmaster; he received 8*s.* per week, was 60 years old, and was formerly a game-keeper; the schoolmistress had a salary of 18*l.* per annum; she formerly kept a village day-school; this was in February 1837. In West Ashford Union, West Wells workhouse, the schoolmaster was last a steward on board one of the convict Hulks at Sheerness; it was part of his duty to assist in the kitchen, to cut up the provisions and to make himself generally useful; he appeared a very ignorant person, and always made use of the *w* instead of the *v*; his age was 58; his salary 25*l.* per annum; the schoolmistress was then only on trial, and her salary was not fixed; this was in February 1837. In Hollingbourn Union workhouse, the schoolmaster was formerly a farmer, but lost his money and set up a day-school, which did not pay; his salary was 20*l.* per annum; the salary of the schoolmistress was only 10 *l.*; she had been in a lunatic asylum, and was a pauper; this was in February 1837. In Bermondsey Nursery for Children, at Merton, a young man of the age of 27, formerly a clerk, and with the appearance and manners of one who had been brought up in a booking-office, was the schoolmaster; his salary was 25*l.* per annum, which appeared to have been given him rather as a means of support than in consequence of his qualifications for teaching; his family were respectable, and known to a number of the board, who procured him this appointment; this young man had the sole charge of the instruction of 135 children, including boys, girls and infants. The statements which I have now made may be considered a fair specimen of the kind of teachers provided at workhouse schools; the salaries given by boards of guardians in the new unions do not appear generally to exceed the sums stated in the above instances. At the workhouse for the Shepton Mallett Union, the master of the house and the matron are required to teach the children to read and write, in addition to performing all the other multifarious duties connected with the management of adult paupers; but the general rule is, that the schoolmaster shall be engaged at a salary of 10*s.* per week, or 25*l.* per annum; he is allowed apartments in the house, fire and candle, and provisions; if he wish for a more generous diet, that is sometimes allowed; he must pay for it; and he is generally expected, besides attending the children, to assist in the household work, and, in fact, to undertake all the drudgery which the master of the house may be indisposed to perform, and which cannot be safely left to the paupers; the duties of the schoolmistress are similar, but the salary is from 5*l.* to 10*l.* less than that of the master; it is needless to observe, that upon such terms the services of persons of education or intelligence are not to be obtained, and those from any class who apply for the situation,

situation, have had but little competition to dread; an advertisement for a schoolmaster frequently produces only one candidate, and sometimes none; in a few, but a few only, of the London parishes, a more liberal system prevails; in the workhouse of St. Mary-le-bone the salary of the schoolmaster and his wife is 80*l.* per annum; Mr. Aubin, at his establishment for pauper children, pays 60*l.* per annum to a schoolmaster and schoolmistress, educated at the Borough-road school, and 25*l.* to an infant schoolmistress; at a similar establishment at Brixton, Mr. Dronet pays his infant schoolmistress 30 guineas per annum, but the schoolmaster only 20*l*; he was a captain in the army, but became reduced in circumstances, as he admitted, by his own folly and imprudence; he is 70 years of age, and was seven years a pauper of Lambeth parish; boards of guardians naturally object to incur a great and disproportionate expense for a schoolmaster or schoolmistress, when the number of children to be educated in a workhouse is comparatively small, as in some of the country unions; the only remedy in these cases is to remove the children from the workhouse, and place them where they are to be educated with other children, in sufficient numbers to allow of a fit and properly qualified person being placed over them.

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William Shadbolt, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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13242. *Chairman.*] HAVE you had much experience in the administration of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I have been chairman, and *ex-officio* guardian in the board of Lambeth, from its commencement up to the last, altogether two years and a quarter.

13243. How are the elections of guardians in the parish of Lambeth generally conducted; are they by lists?—Yes.

13244. Is it your opinion that it would be more advantageous for that parish if the guardians were elected by wards?—Most decidedly; I am quite of that opinion.

13245. Will you be good enough to give your reasons for entertaining that opinion?—My reason is (and the present board of guardians furnishes me with the proof), that a certain party hold together, and they get up a list from one part of the parish; and the other parts of the parish are not represented.

13246. Mr. *Baines.*] But the effect would be, supposing the election to be in wards, that you would have a more general distribution of the representation of your district?—Yes.

13247. *Chairman.*] Are the guardians elected by list in Lambeth, taken generally from the whole parish, or confined to particular parts?—No, they are taken from the whole parish, but the nomination is at the vestry-hall, where only a certain number of persons, interested in it, get up these lists.

13248. If so large a parish were divided into wards, different parties would be proposed from each district?—Yes.

13249. You think it would lead to more improvement, and create a fairer and a more satisfactory board of guardians?—Certainly.

13250. Mr. *Baines.*] That observation you suppose would not only apply to the parish of Lambeth, but to all parishes where there is a large population, and a considerable number of guardians to be elected?—Most unquestionably.

13251. Mr. *Freshfield.*] The present system may lead to a system of self-election, in consequence of the unwillingess people may have to encounter elections?—Yes.

13252. To set up a list, and maintain that list?—Yes.

13253. Whereas an election in each particular district would be a simple operation, and might be introduced?—Yes; it is not always the man best suited for a guardian that wishes to be one.

13254. Mr. *Baines.*] It must frequently happen, when the list is so large, that it must be quite impossible for the persons electing to know the merits and demerits of the candidates?—As a proof of that, in the election for Lambeth, on this last occasion, we have had 2,000 papers returned unsigned, from that circumstance; when we came to ask the inhabitants why they left them so, they said fairly enough, "I could not fill up, I did not know who were the right persons;" but if we elected four in each neighbourhood, or any other given number, it would be different; that parish is divided ecclesiastically into five districts, the mother district and four others: there are four district churches, the Waterloo district, the Kennington district, the Brixton district, and the Norwood district.

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13255. Persons returning lists, who have partisanship in view, frequently are apt to do it?—Yes.

13256. And those who are anxious to be regulated by a judgment of the talents or qualifications of the candidates do not return the lists, for they do not happen to know who would be suitable?—That is really the fact.

13257. But if each man had to return in his own ward, and that ward was of a moderate size, he either would know the candidate, or a little trouble would soon put him into possession of that information?—Yes; and he would be very glad to be so informed, and to elect proper persons.

13258. Which, owing to the unwieldiness of the large lists, he cannot accomplish?—Yes.

13259. *Chairman.*] Turn to the 26th paragraph, the 92d page of 2d Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners; be so good as to read the paragraph?—"In the following cases of persons who are, or who previously to the 1st day of June next may be, paupers duly chargeable to any parish in the union, and who are resident within it, namely, persons who are indigent and helpless from age; persons who are indigent and helpless from being crippled or from incurable disease; persons who are indigent and helpless from temporary sickness; widows who are destitute and burthened with children incapable of working; the guardians may order weekly relief to be given, partly in money and partly in kind; that is to say, in articles of food, clothing, fuel, medicines or other articles of absolute necessity.

13260. It appears from this rule the board of guardians acting under it are at liberty to offer relief, partly in money and partly in kind, to the classes of persons inserted in the rule, who previously to the 1st day of June last were paupers, and chargeable to the union; have you received any rule of this description at Lambeth?—We have used our discretion in it as the cases occurred.

13261. Is it your practice invariably to refuse relief out of the workhouse to the persons enumerated in this rule?—Certainly not.

13262. Do you exercise a discretion with reference to the persons enumerated in this list, as to whether you should relieve them in or out of the workhouse?—Unquestionably.

13263. Do you order temporary relief to persons of this description, or do you occasionally revise the orders for relief?—We always order temporary relief and revise them at short periods.

13264. Do you, if you think the circumstances require, renew the order for relief out of the workhouse to the classes enumerated there?—We do certainly; still for short periods.

13265. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you conceive by that order of the Commissioners, that you are absolutely precluded from giving relief to that class of persons out of the workhouse after the 1st of June?—We have never considered so; we have never considered ourselves absolutely bound to do so; we were to use our discretion in those particular cases, making as few of them as we could.

13266. From having been so long connected with the board, have you any observations to make as to any alterations you wish to see in the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I beg to say, not; I have worked it with great care and diligence, taking up two days in the work, and always, and I have always been in before 10 in the morning; sometimes I have not left till 5; I have not been absent more than twice and that from illness, and I have seen nothing, from my experience there, which induces me to say there ought to be alteration.

13267. *Chairman.*] You think the operation of the law satisfactory?—Perfectly so; in our great parish it has proved itself so; in our boards of guardians we have invited those inimical to the board to come and join us; there has been hardly an instance in which they have not become converts to it; working it out in the way I have described, not being too violent.

13268. Have you observed any complaint on the part of persons having public-houses?—The complaints of the occupiers of them; they have lost their trade since the out-door relief was stopped; the money used to be spent, unfortunately, in their houses; they were very much losers, and were always complaining.

13269. Mr. *Walker.*] Can you suggest any alteration for the bettering the bastardy law?—I cannot indeed.

13270. *Chairman.*] You think it acts satisfactorily?—Many people complain; one cannot find a remedy; if the discretion is to be limited, what are you to do.

13271. Mr. *Miles*.] Have you been in the habit of applying for orders of affiliation at quarter-sessions?—Not at all; I do not think I have once.

13272. *Chairman*.] Is there any local Act at Lambeth?—Yes.

13273. Do you find the operation of that Act interferes with the administration of the Poor Law?—Yes; the money being raised by the churchwardens and overseers, part of that responsibility rests on them, and part on the board; there is always a difficulty in making the rates; sometimes they do not agree as to the rate needful; one individual will think it is more than the other; as to the distribution of money, sometimes the board of guardians are not supplied with money as they want it; the collectors are under the charge of the board of guardians and churchwardens to collect monies, yet the overseers make the rate, so that there are always difficulties between the two powers; they clash.

13274. The board of guardians make the necessary order, do they not, for the relief of the poor?—Yes; that is all the power they have.

13275. Have you observed any difficulty in the punctual recovery of money so ordered by the board of guardians?—Not from motives of opposition; sometimes from money not being collected.

13276. You, therefore, think it is desirable that the whole of the collection of money, as far as the poor-rate is concerned, should be under the control of the board of guardians?—Every thing regarding the parish should be under one control; the county-rate and the police-rate should be under the same; they would work much better if the whole funds of the parish were put under one responsible board; it would be a great deal better.

13277. Would there be a great opposition to the repeal of the local Act, as far as those powers are concerned?—Not the smallest; I think it would be beneficial to all parties.

15278. Generally acceptable to the parish?—Quite so, I think.

13279. Mr. *Freshfield*.] You were asked, whether any improvement occurred to you in the bastardy law?—There really does not.

13280. Have you had much experience in the working of the clause?—Yes; I had so much that, when the board was first instituted, we had 200 children that received relief as bastards, and when we came to throw the relief off not 20 came to the house.

13281. You say that you have not had any cases of appeal to the justices?—No.

13282. Therefore you have not considered the operation of this clause requiring confirmation of the woman's statement?—No; the expense is so great, and the uncertainty also, we have not.

13283. Do you think there would be any injustice in allowing the woman to affiliate the first child?—As before, and chargeable to the parish? I should doubt the propriety of it.

13284. One great evil formerly was, that one woman had several children, and obtained an income by means of prostitution; would you make no distinction between a woman having several children and a woman with her first child?—There ought to be a distinction.

13285. *Chairman*.] What sort of distinction?—There is the difficulty.

13286. Mr. *Freshfield*.] Whether the allowance should be made to a woman for her first child or not, would you not think it justice the man should be made to pay for the maintenance of the child?—I wish the man could be made to pay in all cases; I should be very glad if they could still; the parish ought not to pay.

13287. Do you not feel that you are taking away one motive from the man, the motive of fear, in relieving him from the payment?—The experience of our parish has shown that even before this law, in nine cases out of ten, the man who had been compelled to pay, paid it for a very short period, and then ran away; and I am sorry to say that our parish-books show a loss of 1,000*l*., in consequence of orders being made for payments; they so soon leave the parish, and run away; they evade you altogether; it has already formed a great burden on the parish.

13288. What do you think is the effect on persons in better circumstances?—They ought to pay, certainly; there is no difficulty about that.

13289. Is it not cruel to throw the whole expenses on the woman in that case?—Certainly, where the man is in circumstances, he ought to be made to pay.

The Rev. *John George Storie*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. *J. G. Storie.*

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13290. *Chairman.*] YOU are chairman of the Camberwell Union?—I am.

13291. Turn to page 92 of that Report lying before you, the 24th section; the passage has just been read by the preceding witness; do you know any rule of that decription under which you are now acting; are you acting under any rule of that description?—No; I am not aware that there is any rule limiting the period to the 1st of June; we act under no such rule.

13292. What is your practice with reference to persons who are indigent and helpless from age, who are indigent and helpless from being crippled or from incurable disease, or who are indigent and helpless from temporary sickness, and widows who are destitute and burthened with children incapable of working?—To relieve those persons out of the house.

13293. Do you exercise a discretion on that subject, ordering into the house persons of that description whom you think it desirable to order into the house, and giving relief out of doors to whom you think it is desirable?—We do.

13294. Do you think that a salutary mode of administering relief?—Yes, I do.

13295. Have you observed any inconvenience result from that practice?—None whatever.

13296. Should you dislike to see that adopted?—Indeed I should, though believing the rules of the Poor Law Commissioners generally very good; nor considering the workhouse, in one point of view, as a test of idleness, can it be necessary in regard to this class of paupers.

13297. Have you been long chairman of the Camberwell Union?—Ever since it was established in November 1835.

13298. What has been your experience of the operation of the law in that parish?—That it has been most salutary.

13299. Do you think, at the same time, it has been attended with any privation to the deserving poor?—Indeed none.

13300. Do you think that the old and helpless and diseased were less well taken care of and less well provided for under the old law?—Much better under the new Poor Law than under the old system.

13301. Does your union comprise many parishes?—Only our own.

13302. Had you formerly a select vestry and paid overseers?—A paid overseer, not a select vestry.

13303. How many relieving overseers have you now?—Only one.

13304. What is the population of the parish?—About 38,000 now.

13305. The geographical extent of it is not very great?—The circumference of it is about 22 miles.

13306. What distance is any part of the parish from the workhouse?—The most distant part of it; I cannot speak with accuracy; perhaps between three and four miles.

13307. Do you find one relieving overseer is sufficient for the discharge of that duty?—Yes; we had two in the first instance; we found that one was sufficient.

13308. Do you think that he has time sufficiently to ascertain the real condition of the poor?—Yes, I do.

13309. What is his practice in case of a new application being made to him; what would be the practice; would he invariably go to the house of the applicant?—Invariably.

13310. Would he, at his own discretion, order the relief he thought immediately necessary, and then report the circumstance to the board?—Yes.

13311. Are you in the habit of seeing paupers when they come to the board?—Yes.

13312. Do you ever refuse to see any person?—Never.

13313. Have you ever known the relieving officer, or have you heard, that he has thrown impediments in the way of your seeing paupers?—No, indeed; were he to do so the board would recommend his dismissal immediately.

13314. Mr. *Miles.*] What were your rates in Camberwell previously to the Poor Law?—A short time previously to the introduction of the Poor Law, 4*s.* in the pound, and one year they were 4*s.* 6*d.*

13315. What are they now at the present time?—They are rather high, in consequence of our paying for the new building; but immediately after the introduction of the new Poor Law, I think they were reduced to 20*d.*

13316. Was

13316. Was that reduction effected without causing any provocation to the poor?—Without causing any.

13317. What is the state of the old poor within your union at the present time without the house; are they better or worse paid than formerly?—They are not better paid; but they are constantly under the eye of the relieving officer or the board, and no exigency, no particular distress can arise to any of them without its being immediately seen to.

13318. Is the allowance about the same?—It is, but it is given in kind very much.

13319. What amount of relief do you give to an old person?—Each case stands on its own merits; sometimes an old person has relations who can aid in maintaining him or her, in which case we give very little; in others a considerable sum; we do not profess to maintain any person.

13320. *Chairman.*] Did you ever make inquiry into the circumstances of any of the paupers who had been struck off the lists for parish relief?—Indeed I have, and I have the satisfaction of saying, that out of several hundred persons struck off the list of paupers, many of whom, or the greater portion of whom are still resident in the parish under my own eye; the change which has taken place in their moral habits and temporal comforts exceeds the warmest anticipations.

13321. What do you attribute that to?—To those people being compelled to depend on themselves, to self-reliance.

13322. What was the practice formerly?—Any person who came to the parish board was sure to receive relief.

13323. What was the consequence of that indiscriminate relief?—They used to carry the relief they received, generally speaking, to the ale-house.

13324. Were they idle in habits?—Worthless.

13325. Could they depend certainly on receiving relief if they made application?—Yes, they could.

13326. Was there any inducement to the paupers to exert themselves?—None whatever.

13327. The change has been to produce industry in those whose habits were formerly idle and negligent?—Just so.

13328. And you have observed, in the instances that have come under your notice, that their temporal comforts as well as moral habits have improved?—Yes.

13329. Have you examined, yourself personally, into those cases?—I have, and I have taken the evidence of a number of tradespeople, of medical persons, and the clergy generally throughout the parish; they will all confirm what I now state, as to the improvement in the moral habits and temporal comforts of those people.

13330. As you have had considerable experience in the working of this law in your district, are there any suggestions you would wish to make to the Committee, by which the law, in your opinion, might be amended?—I should strongly recommend that the making of the rates, and all the duties which are now performed by other parties in the parish, should be left to the board of guardians.

13331. What inconvenience have you felt from its not being so?—Want of uniformity of system.

13332. Have you a local Act?—Yes.

13333. What is the division of power which you find inconvenient?—There is a highway committee, who have a surveyor of their own, with which surveyor in reality rests the making and the spending of the rates; it is true, it is nominally the committee; he has the use of their name; at the same time he is the person on whom the expenditure principally depends; with this committee the board of guardians not unfrequently have trouble; they are the persons who alone have labour at disposal; they refuse sometimes our able-bodied paupers work on the roads.

13334. Is that from some feeling of jealousy?—I think it is from the bad way they are elected; they are elected in open vestry; and of course they are not always so fit as where a deliberate election takes place.

13335. You have found inconvenience of that description?—Yes.

13336. In any other respect have you found the powers of the local Act inconveniently conflicting with the board of local guardians?—No; it affects the highway, and perhaps the charity estates, which form no material feature in the main; it would be desirable that the board of guardians had the making of the rate, as well as of expending of it.

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13337. You mean the rate that is now made by two magistrates?—Yes; nominally, but in reality by the overseers, without any assistance.

13338. You think it would be desirable that the whole of the making of the rates, and the collecting them and enforcing the payment of them, as well as the distribution of the money, should be in the board of guardians?—Yes; you spoke of the collectors; those persons are not under the power of the board of guardians; they are not appointed by them, owing to the local Act.

13339. The collectors are appointed by the local Act?—Yes.

13340. They collect all the rates of the parish?—Yes, they do.

13341. They are not amenable to the board of guardians?—No.

13342. Do you find it inconvenient when the board of guardians have ordered particular sums for the relief of the poor; is there any difficulty in collecting that money and receiving it?—We have never been put to serious inconvenience; we have been delayed for a week; there has been no real inconvenience; but there might be.

13343. Suppose the collectors were disposed to throw difficulties in your way, or neglect the collection of the rates, would not the poor be exposed to serious inconvenience for want of payment?—Yes; unless the board of guardians advanced the money out of their own pockets.

13344. You recommend that the whole of the rates should be placed under the control of the board of guardians?—Yes.

13345. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you ever turned your attention to the necessity of an alteration of the law giving greater power to officers, to your relieving officers?—I would give the power of the overseers entirely to the board of guardians; I would do away with overseers entirely.

13346. In whom would you invest the power?—In the board of guardians entirely; the relieving officer I would still keep dependent on the board of guardians.

13347. In case of the removal of a lunatic pauper, under the present system, from your workhouse, do you not find frequently a difficulty in getting the overseer's attendance, it being necessary on the examination taken before the magistrates?—The more usual form with us is to remove the lunatic on a medical certificate, confirmed by the clergyman, and a parish officer.

13348. In the case of making the application for the removal of a lunatic pauper, would it not be an advantage to all parties if the power given to the overseer were given to the relieving officer?—I would not give the power the overseer at present possesses to the relieving officer, but to the board of guardians.

13349. What would you reserve to the overseers, then?—None whatever; the office would be wholly useless; it is all but useless now.

13350. At present there are two accounts kept, I think, one the parochial account, the other the Poor Law account; would you place that parochial account under the Poor Law Union, as well as the poor account?—I would.

13351. That you think would be a considerable improvement?—A vast improvement; the audit would be more regular, as well as the system generally.

13352. Both your answers apply to the general administration, rather than to the local administration in Camberwell?—Yes, certainly.

13353. Mr. *Walker.*] Have you reason to believe the administration of the law generally is satisfactory to the poor?—It is becoming more satisfactory than it was; undoubtedly, in the first instance, they looked to it in Camberwell, as well as every where else, with very great terror.

13354. Has there been a clamour or complaint made by those who under the old law received relief?—No clamour.

13355. *Chairman.*] Do you think the dissatisfaction which existed, and the alarm which subsisted, have subsided since the law has been in operation?—Very much.

13356. And that that has been really an alteration of opinion; not that the people acquiesced in a law which they found it impossible to resist?—Clearly an alteration of opinion.

13357. A real change in the convictions and opinions of persons who are affected by the administration of relief?—Yes; for many persons who before

were

were paupers, and struck off the books, look on the withdrawal of relief as the best thing that ever happened to them.

13358. Finding their habits have been improved, and that their temporal circumstances have improved, they have come to the conviction, you think, that it is better for them to rely for support on their own independent exertions than on the parochial assistance they formerly received?—I believe so; I am sure of it.

13359. Have you any report from your board of guardians?—I have one, dated January 1837.

13360. Is that the report you hold in your hand?—It is.

13361. Does that paper contain more than one report?—No, but one.

13362. Dated January 1837?—Yes.

13363. Be so good as to put that in.

[*The Witness delivered in the following Report.*]

REPORT from the BOARD OF GUARDIANS, established on the 24th November 1835, in the parish of *St. Giles, Camberwell,* under the provision of the New Poor Law Act.

A TWELVEMONTH having elapsed since the introduction of the new Poor Law into the parish of Camberwell, the board of guardians feel it due to themselves, and to the measure which they have undertaken to administer, to publish a statement of their proceedings, and thus assist the parishioners in forming an opinion upon the utility and advantage of the measure, its efficacy in raising the moral condition of the poor, and making better provision for those who really are necessitous and require relief from the parochial fund.

The board, upon their first establishment, proceeded with much care and anxiety to the performance of the arduous duties imposed on them, being sensible that the proposed change in the method of relieving the poor, however well it might sound in theory, had to be reduced into practice, not only against the feelings of the parties more immediately interested, but also against what might be termed the popular prejudice against the measure itself; still the board felt assured, that with a little patience on the part of the public, and steady perseverance on the part of those who had to carry the measure into effect, all apparent difficulties would be overcome. In order to adopt an uniformity of proceeding, the board endeavoured, as far as possible, to lay down a system of relief to be administered to all, leaving particular cases to form their own exception, and for that purpose they resolved, that in regard to persons above 60 years of age, the out-door relief should be continued to all who did not wholly depend on parochial aid, or who were residing with their children or near relatives contributing to their comfort and support, or who, because of former respectability, or any other particular circumstance, expressed repugnance to a workhouse; thus, on the one hand, carefully avoiding to sever domestic ties or to wound the feelings of those who had seen better days, and, on the other, affording a shelter to all who would be otherwise unable to find one; that with respect to such as were under 60 years, some further distinction should be made in favour of those who had a prospect of, sooner or later, maintaining themselves, and only that class housed within the walls of the workhouse who were likely to be a perpetual burthen upon the rates.

Having agreed upon a system, the board had personal examination of the different cases receiving out-door relief, taking care that each particular case should be fully inquired into previous to any alteration being made in the old allowances, and the result was, as will hereafter be shown, that in a large number of cases the board were compelled to take off the allowance altogether.

In-door Relief.—In order to carry into effect the provisions of the Act, and to complete a better classification of the inmates of the workhouse, the board were under the necessity of enlarging the building, for which purpose they obtained a loan of 2,000*l.* from the Exchequer Bill Loan Commissioners, to be repaid by annual instalments of 200*l.* each.

The alterations are now complete, and the board are bringing into operation that part of the Act requiring a separation of the different ages, sexes and conditions.

By thus separating the aged who are past labour from those who are able to contribute towards their own maintenance in the house, the comfort of the former, as well as order among all, are more effectually provided for. It is true, that in the general classification, which includes the sexes, husband and wife are kept apart, but this is no new feature in the present law; it was as unavoidable under the old as it is under the new system, and for this plain reason, that decency requiring that the same room should have no other occupants but the man and his wife, there would be no limits to the size of the workhouse affording separate apartments to every married couple.

On the subject of diet, it has been the care of the board to frame an amply sufficient table, but somewhat below the fare of an independent labourer, who earns his bread by his own exertions. To the ordinary table, which is subjoined, tea, and whatever else is prescribed by the medical attendant as requisite, is added for the sick and aged.

Rev. J. G. Storie.

7 June 1838.

The following statement will show the number of inmates, including the workhouse, Marlborough House, at Norwood, and in Peckham House, at corresponding periods, in two years; viz.—

	Number of Men in the House; Marlborough House and Asylum.	Number of Women in the House; Marlborough House and Asylum.	Number of Children in the House, and at Norwood.	TOTALS: In-door.
31st December 1835	75	126	66	267
31st December 1836	69	125	77	271

Out-door Relief.—It will be found, on reference to the accounts set forth in the schedule, that the number of recipients of out-door relief were, viz.—

	Number of Men.	Number of Women.	Children.	TOTAL.
On the 31st December 1835	242	538	920	1,700
And on the 31st December 1836, the numbers were	76	240	289	605
Making a reduction amounting to	166	298	631	1,095

The above shows the difference between the two years, but the schedule sets forth the proportionate reduction in each quarter.

It may be considered by many individuals that reduction in the allowance to the poor cannot by possibility have bettered their condition, but only deprived them of a few comforts previously enjoyed, and that the loss is far more deeply and severely felt by them than the proportionate saving is appreciated by the rate-payer; but such, the board are convinced, from experience, is not the case; so far from the individuals whose relief has been discontinued being sufferers by the change, the board have in their possession a list of no less than 207 persons, the greater portion of whom are still resident within the parish, the numerical number of whose families amount to 664, who, under the old system, were regular in their attendance at the board for parochial relief, but are now maintaining themselves and their families solely by their own industry and labour, while the difference between what they were and what they are, both as to morals and as to comfort, is most remarkable. In the former case, whilst they leaned on parochial aid, most of them bore an idle and dissolute character, their families were ragged and starved, and their hovels filthy and wretched; in the latter case, now that they depend on their own energies, they readily find employment, are reputed industrious, their children are decently clad and sent to school, and their dwellings present the appearance which would be desired in the cottage of an English labourer.

This point, to which the board beg it to be understood they have particularly directed their inquiries, must, they submit, be regarded as the great test by which the merits of the system are to be proved.

In administering the out-door relief, the board have endeavoured, as far as possible, to act up to the spirit of the Act, and give a large portion in kind, and from the systematic plan pursued by the relieving officer, of visiting the paupers at their respective dwellings, and ascertaining the real state of their families, the children who are residing with their parents, and, as such, receiving parish relief, are compelled, when of sufficient age, to seek situations, or find employ suitable to their respective stations; and this practice the board consider one of the most effectual in reducing the number of future claimants on the parish funds.

It will be seen by the accounts set forth in the schedule annexed, that for the year ending April 1834, the sum expended in relieving and maintaining and providing for the poor amounted to £. 15,759 6 2

And for the following year ending April 1835, the like expenditure amounted to 14,787 15 1

And for the year commencing 1st Jan. and ending 31st Dec. 1836, the expenditure amounted to 8,700 – –

Thus showing a reduction of 41⅛ per cent. between the expenditure of the year ending April 1835, and that ending December 1836, and a reduction of 44¾ per cent. upon the expenditure between the year ending April 1834, and the year ending December 1836; and from this statement it will be seen that some improvement had taken place in the year preceding the introduction of the new Poor Law into this parish, which is to be attributed to its principles having been partially acted upon, while, from that period, the improvement has rapidly progressed, as is shown by the account set forth in the schedule, the expenditure of each quarter being there separate and distinct.

Employment of the Poor.—This head applies as well to those within as those without the walls, and is one of the greatest difficulties the board have had to contend with; the bad habit of giving relief, both to the in and out-door poor, without requiring any thing in return, had gained an ascendancy, which it demanded much perseverance to counteract. Employment,

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ment, however, having been at length provided for the inmates of the workhouse, in picking oakum, chopping wood, and pounding glass, as well as slop-work for the women—all the inmates of the house are now actively employed in some useful pursuit, to the extent of their ability; and as regards the out-door able-bodied poor, work, proportioned to their strength, is found for them in the stone-yard; but the board feel convinced, and submit for the consideration of the parishioners, that if they had the opportunity of sending some of the men, whom they are constantly compelled to relieve, to work upon the roads, under the superintendence of an active intelligent person, much benefit, including a great improvement in the roads, would be derived, and the board would, thereby, provide employment for many persons, who, from previous habits, or bad health, have not power to work in the stone-yard. It must not be expected that the labour of the paupers can, at this early period, be turned to a profitable account, but the board consider a most important step is gained in finding employment. The price paid to the out-door paupers is under the average value of free labour, with a view to induce them to seek employment elsewhere, instead of being dependent for their support on that to be obtained from a parish board.

As regards the Pauper Children.—The board considered that one of the greatest evils incidental to the old system was the bringing up children wholly dependent on parochial relief, within the contaminating atmosphere of a parish workhouse, the result of which has been, that too many of the present paupers are recognized through their fathers and grandfathers having been recipients of relief. The board immediately determined to correct this evil, and, with few exceptions, adopted the practice of sending children either to Norwood or Hackney Wick, where they are instructed in their moral and religious duties, are taught to read and write, and are also employed profitably in some way which may lead to their future advancement in life, and upon their attaining a suitable age, situations are provided for them, and thus the most effectual step is taken of making them honest members of society, and preventing their being an incumbrance to this or any other parish.

Illegitimate Children.—It appears that between April 1833 and April 1834, 28 children became chargeable to the parish, of which number one is dead, and three are now receiving relief; and that between the 1st January and 31st December 1836, only 11 children became chargeable, of whom one is since dead, and two are now receiving relief.

Poor-rates.—From the reduction in the number of cases of relief, it may fairly be expected that a proportionate reduction will be made in the rates, and the result cannot but prove highly satisfactory to the parishioners.

In the year commencing April 1833, and ending April 1834, the poor-rates amounted to 4*s.* in the pound, and, including the balance in hand at the commencement, the total receipts amounted to 22,695*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, which, after making the payments set out in the schedule, left a balance in favour of the parish, amounting to 329*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*

The receipts for the year ensuing, including the poor-rates, 3*s.* 4*d.* in the pound, amounted to the sum of 20,487*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, and thereout, after making the payments mentioned in the schedule, left a balance in hand of 803*l.* 3*s.* 3*s.*

On the 1st of January 1836, the balance in the hands of the officers amounted to the sum of 794*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.*, and the rates made during the year ending 31st December last, were 2*s.* 1*d.* in the pound, and produced a net receipt on account of the parish, amounting to 14,937*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, and after thereout making provision for the like payments for the police and county rates, as in previous years, left a balance in hand of 623*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*

It may also be right to state, that in January 1836 the sum returned as due for the recoverables upon the poor-rate amounted to 1,220*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, but on the 31st December 1836, the sum then outstanding due for recoverables, amounted only to the sum of 143*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, a circumstance that may, in a great measure, be considered to have arisen from the rates being now made half-yearly instead of quarterly, as heretofore, and the books not being allowed to remain beyond a given period in the collectors' hands, when they are required to summon every person whose rates remain unpaid.

In conclusion, the board of guardians feel themselves justified in declaring, that since the introduction of the new Poor Law into the parish, the state of the neighbouring poor has been, in every sense, greatly improved, which circumstance, coupled with the other results shown by this statement, will, they confidently trust, induce a general opinion that the measure itself is not only most beneficial to the country at large, but affords to the necessitous and needy poor such ample protection, as under the old defective system they could not be sure of; and that the reduction in the rates has not been caused by depriving the aged or the infirm, or the helpless widow and children, of any of their comforts, but, on the contrary, has arisen from putting to the test habits of idleness displayed by able-bodied paupers, from striking off their allowance, or compelling them to perform a due portion of work in return for the relief or assistance which they may receive from the parish fund, and thus, in effect, from a fair and legitimate endeavour, to restore such persons to the character and condition of independence.

(signed) *John George Storie*, Chairman,
Charles Dodd, Vice Chairman,
Richard Pope,
George Marshall,
Samuel Pope,
James Pew,
Charles Harden,
John Brett,
John Deacon,
Alexander Nairne,
Edward Puckle,
George Puckle,
William Hichens,
Robert Hichens,
Robert Alexander Gray
Samuel Richardson.

Vestry Hall, Camberwell,
18th January 1837.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING REPORT.

RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE by the CHURCHWARDENS and OVERSEERS, out of the POOR'S RATE for Two Years, from April 1833 to April 1835.

RECEIPT.

	Amount received from Collectors.	Sundry Receipts for Dust, &c.	Total Amount received by Churchwardens and Overseers.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1833, April, Balance in hand -	- - -	- - -	232 13 -
1833, April, to 1834, April, - - - -	21,787 9 1	675 12 1	22,463 1 2
			22,695 14 2
1834, April, Balance in the Treasurer's hands - -	- - -	- - -	329 7 1
1834, April, to 1835, April, - - - -	19,497 9 3	660 12 9	20,158 2 -
			20,487 9 1

EXPENDITURE.

	Payment for Maintenance and Relief of In and Out Poor.	Expenses relating to the Poor, though not actual Relief.	Police.	County.	Sundry Payments.	Total Payments.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
	12,698 4 1	3,061 2 1	3,112 10 -	2,075 - -	1,416 11 -	22,363 7 2
	£. 15,759. 6. 2.				Balance in hand, including £. 2. 19s. 11d. in Assistant Overseer's hands - -	332 7 -
						22,695 14 2
	12,022 19 7	2,764 15 6	3,075 - -	1,520 - -	301 5 9	19,684 5 10
	£. 14,787. 15. 1.				Balance in hand - - -	803 3 3
						20,487 9 1

RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE by the CHURCHWARDENS and OVERSEERS, out of the POOR'S RATE, for One Year, from 1st January to 31st December 1836.

RECEIPT.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1836, January 1, Balance in hand	- - -	- - -	794 13 9
1836, January 1 to March 28 -	4,524 2 10	138 18 4	4,663 1 2
" " to June 28 -	3,432 19 2	36 4 6	3,469 3 8
" " to December 31	5,854 17 11	155 9 -	6,010 6 11
£.	13,811 19 11	330 11 10	14,937 5 6

EXPENDITURE.

	Payments to Board of Guardians.				
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1836, Jan. 1st to March 28th	3,200 - -	768 15 -	1,025 - -	323 1 9	5,316 16 9
To June 28th	2,220 - -	768 15 -	- - -	117 18 8	3,086 13 8
To Dec. 31st	3,300 - -	2,306 5 -	- - -	303 15 11	5,910 - 11
	8,700 - -	3,843 15 -	1,025 - -	744 16 4	14,313 11 4

Total Amount received for Overseers - - - - - -	£. 14,937 5 6
Payments by Overseers - - - - - - -	14,313 11 4
Balance to the Credit of the Parish, 31 Dec. 1836 - - -	£. 623 14 2

Receipt and Expenditure of the Board of Guardians, from 1st January to 31st December 1836.

	RECEIPT.					EXPENDITURE.					
	Amount received from Overseers.	Received for Paupers' Labour and Materials.	Received from Foreign Parishes.	Received from other sources, including Loan for enlarging Workhouse.	Total Receipts.	In Maintenance Charges; viz. in Workhouse, Marlborough House, Peckham Asylum, and at Norwood.	Out Relief Charges, including 200 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.*, advanced for Foreign Parishes.	Payments for Materials to be used in employing the Paupers.	Establishment Charges, including Repairs, Furniture, Salaries, Utensils, Printing and Stationery.	Payments for Enlargement of Workhouse.	Total Payments.
1836:	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
January 1 to March 30 - -	3,200 – –	- - -	- - -	- - -	3,200 – –	761 2 3	1,378 18 9	59 17 5	424 – 11	- - -	2,623 14 4
March 30 to June 23 - -	2,200 – –	21 10 7	104 18 3	65 3 4	2,391 12 2	728 12 10½	908 17 3	36 10 –	373 9 8½	62 10 –	2,109 19 10
June 23 to September 28 -	1,800 – –	77 17 3	54 12 9	2,042 19 2½	3,975 9 2½	583 16 3	871 8 10	322 13 6½	471 6 4	548 5 –	2,797 9 11½
September 28 to December 28	1,500 – –	- - -	33 19 6	40 10 –	1,574 9 6	813 – 5	739 6 –	134 19 9	314 8 8	1,388 9 6	3,390 14 4
Total - - £.	8,700 – –	99 7 10	193 10 6	2,148 12 6½	11,141 10 10½	2,886 11 9½	3,898 5 10	554 – 8½	1,583 15 7½	1,999 4 6	10,921 18 5½

Total Receipts - - - - - - - -	£. 11,141 10 10½
Total Payments - - - - - - - -	10,921 18 5½
Balance - - - - -	£. 219 12 5

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Rev. J. G. Storie.
7 June 1838.

Rev. *J. G. Storie.*

7 June 1838.

CAMBERWELL WORKHOUSE.

Dietary Table.

DAYS.	BREAKFAST.		DINNER.					SUPPER.		
	Bread.	Milk Porridge.	Bread.	Meat.	Potatoes.	Soup	Suet Pudding	Bread.	Cheese or Butter to its equivalent in value.	Gruel.
	oz.	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*lbs.*	*pints.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*oz.*	*pints.*
Sunday -	4	1	4	(Mutton) 6	½	- -	- -	4	- -	1
Monday -	4	1	4	—	- -	1½	- -	4	2	—
Tuesday -	4	1	4	(Beef) 6	½	- -	- -	4	- -	1
Wednesday -	4	1	4	—	- -	1½	- -	4	2	—
Thursday -	4	1	4	(Beef) 6	½	- -	- -	4	- -	1
Friday -	4	1	4	—	- -	1½	- -	4	- -	1
Saturday -	4	1	4	—	- -	- -	14	4	2	—
	28	7	28	18	1½	4½	14	28	6	4

STATEMENT of the NUMBER of IN and OUT-DOOR POOR.

DATES.	Number of Men in the House, Marlbro' House and Peckham Asylum.	Number of Women in the House, Marlbro' House and Peckham Asylum.	Number of Children in Workhouse and at Norwood.	Total Number of Men, Women and Children. In-door.	Number of Men receiving Out-door Relief.	Number of Women receiving Out-door Relief.	Number of Children receiving Out-door Relief.	Total Number of Men, Women and Children receiving Out-door Relief.
On 1st April 1833 -	71	136	48	255	476	752	1,381	2,609
On 1st April 1834 -	61	115	46	222	367	680	1,137	2,184
On 31st December 1835	75	126	66	267	242	538	920	1,700
On 31st December 1836	69	125	77	271	76	240	289	605

STATEMENT of the NUMBER of OUT-DOOR POOR.

	1		2		3		4			
DATE.	Aged and Infirm of both Sexes.		Orphan & Foundling Children.		Illegitimate Children.		Insane Persons, Lunatics and Idiots.			Total.
1836.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In-door.	Out-door.	In Asylum.	
From January to March	173	1,527	49	52	39	126	4	3	20	1,993
From March to June -	226	1,038	45	3	25	47	1	2	20	1,407
From June to September	219	898	48	21	23	52	5	1	20	1,287
From Sept. to Dec. -	167	904	55	- -	20	48	8	- -	18	1,220

January 18, 1837.

Thomas Webb Gilbert,
Clerk to the Board.

Allow

Rev. *J. G. Storie.*

7 June 1838.

Allow me to state that it includes the diet table; there has been a slight alteration in the diet table since this was published, as to tea; all persons above 60 years of age are allowed tea.

13364. Was that a diet table you adopted at the suggestion of the Commissioner, or was it previously in operation in your parish?—No; we proposed it to the Commissioners, on the establishment of the board.

13365. Did they asquiesce?—Yes.

13366. You found no difficulty of any description?—No, none whatever.

13367. You believe it to be wholesome?—Yes.

13368. Sufficient for the maintenance of health and comfort?—Perfectly; in proof of which I may mention that while the influenza was carrying off multitudes of the infirm in every rank of life, we lost but one, notwithstanding our inmates are for the most part aged or infirm, many of them above 80, and one some years above 100.

13369. Mr. *Miles.*] How long has the workhouse been built?—The alterations made in the building under the new system have been completed about a year and a half.

13370. During the last winter, did you find a very great influx of able-bodied paupers?—No.

13371. What is the greatest number of able-bodied people you ever had in your workhouse?—Very few have come in at any time; never more than about 20; we have now but four, and they are, I think, with one exception, women, and of loose character: the average number of inmates, who are nearly all infirm, is about 180.

13372. *Chairman.*] Those who come in, do they stay long?—No, a short time.

13373. Do they generally find work?—Yes.

13374. You observe a classification in your workhouse?—Yes.

13375. You think that absolutely indispensable?—Yes, certainly; both in the good management of the house and the comfort of the people.

13376. Have you any school?—Not in the house.

13377. What do you do with regard to the children?—If they are to remain in the house a short time we send them to the parochial school; if they are likely to remain long upon us, they are sent to Aubin's establishment at Norwood; we have none but infants under six years of age.

13378. Mr. *Miles.*] With your experience of the working of the law in Camberwell for the last three years, do you wish to make any suggestions as to any alteration?—None beyond those I have before proposed about the local Act, placing all matters under the care of the guardians.

13379. *Chairman.*] Have you ever in your intercourse with the Commissioners found any difficulty?—No, none whatever.

13380. You have probably had a good deal of intercourse?—Yes.

13381. Have you observed them indisposed to listen to reasonable remonstrances or observations?—Far from it.

13382. If any alteration as to diet, or any other arrangement, has occurred to you as desirable, have you been in the habit of proposing it to the Commissioners?—We have.

13383. Have you found them make unnecessary objections?—They have invariably assented to our proposals; I am not aware of any one that they have not assented to, and we have made several.

13384. Your intention always being to carry the law into *bonâ fide* operation?—Just so.

13385. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you turned your attention to the clauses as to bastardy under the new Poor Law Act?—I have.

13386. What is your opinion?—That they work admirably well.

13387. Admirably well, probably by being inoperative?—Yes, in one sense.

13388. In what way?—Because of the very few cases we have, compared with the number we used to have; if I had had time I would have brought the difference of numbers in the two years and a half our boards have been in operation, compared with the two years and a half preceding.

13389. Have you reason to suppose bastardy has decreased in the parish of Camberwell?—I should say very much so.

13390. That is not from applications made to the board for orders of affiliation, but from the general knowledge of the parish?—Yes; I should also say, from my general knowledge of the parish as vicar.

 13391. Have

Rev. *J. G. Storie.*

7 June 1838.

13391. Have you heard of any case of infanticide?—No.

13392. You do not believe the effect of the clause is to produce infanticide?—I believe not.

13393. What system have you adopted relative to the bastards born previously to the Poor Law Amendment Act?—

13394. *Chairman.*] Do you still enforce the law against the putative father?—Yes, we do.

13395. You enforce the payment of an order already made?—We do.

13396. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you applied for many orders since the new Law Amendment?—No.

13397. Orders for affiliation?—No.

13398. Have you, in any case?—I think in one or two; very few.

13399. Is not that done at vast expense?—At considerable expense.

13400. Is it not very difficult, after the order is made, to attach the wages of the person on whom the order is made?—No; I think the real difficulty is in getting the order and proving the case.

13401. Do you not think it would better meet your feelings that the whole of the clause should be swept away?—No, I do not; I think women are put on their guard, in consequence.

13402. Mr. *Walker.*] You have no particular data which has led you to suppose there is a decrease of bastardy?—No; except applications for relief and general information; there may be some hardship as to the clause, but we must take with the evil the much greater good that is produced by it.

FORTIETH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
7 *June* 1838.

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FORTY-FIRST

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
12 *June* 1838.

469.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

12 *June* 1838.

WITNESSES.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 12° *die Junii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Miles.
Lord Howick.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *John Marshall*, again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *John Marshall.*

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13403. Mr. *Fielden.*] THE last question I put to you was relative to the case of Enoch Keep: in your answer, 10715, you state that the jury returned a verdict of natural death?—I said, "I think," but I never saw the verdict.

13404. Do you know who were the jurors upon that inquest?—No, I never heard.

13405. Was the case of Keep's one that produced strong excitement in the neighbourhood of Ampthill?—I never heard it hinted that it produced any sensation till Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree came there; that was almost the first I heard of it.

13406. Was the account of it published in the Bedford papers?—Yes, it was.

13407. Were there some remarks made upon it?—I am not aware; I am not in the habit of reading those local papers.

13408. You do not know who the jurors were?—No, I do not know a single person who was on the jury.

13409. Did Keep apply to you for relief before his death?—He applied to the board.

13410. Did he not make his application to you first?—Yes.

13411. How did he get to the board?—I introduced him to the board.

13412. He was denied relief?—He was.

13413. You have stated the grounds upon which he was denied relief?—Yes, that of having available property of his own.

13414. Could he sell that property?—Yes; I believe there would be no difficulty in that.

13415. I find in question 10440, an expression used by you, to which I wish to call your attention; the question is this, "Have you ever received any verbal instructions from the board, contradictory to that code of regulations which you receive from the Poor Law Commissioners?" and your answer is, "I have not; if I had I should have remonstrated;" with whom would you have remonstrated?—With the board of guardians; and, if necessary, I should have refused to obey the orders of the board, if they had been contrary to the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners.

13416. You think yourself the servant of the Poor Law Commissioners?—I think myself the servant of the public, acting under the Act of Parliament; I have the Act of Parliament for my guidance; the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners are framed upon that Act; and, if the board of guardians were to order me to do any thing contrary to either of those, I should remonstrate and appeal to the Poor Law Commissioners or some higher authority; I should not do any thing, simply because I was ordered by the board.

13417. Do you make it your study to read the instructions and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners?—They are not sent to the relieving-officers, but to the boards of guardians, and all other officers but the relieving-officers; and if I do see them I borrow them from the clerk.

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13418. In order to be able to remonstrate you should be thoroughly read in the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners?—I think I am; I have made them my study.

13419. Have you not stated that it is not the practice, in the Ampthill Union, to require the sale of the goods or furniture of a person applying for relief?—Yes, I have.

13420. Is that acting in conformity with the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners?—Yes, I think so; I never knew that the Poor Law Commissioners ordered the sale of furniture.

13421. Have the Poor Law Commissioners published what the strict workhouse test requires?—Yes, I believe they have.

13422. Can you refer to it in their Report?—No, I do not know that I can refer to it; they have prescribed the workhouse, I believe, as the test of destitution; but I am not aware that they have prescribed any thing beyond that.

13423. You will find in the Third Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, page 86, an instructional letter, in which is this passage, that "the strict workhouse principle requires that all members of a family claiming relief should enter the house and give up their property for the benefit of the parish;" have you seen that instructional letter before?—I have.

13424. Have you read that passage?—I have.

13425. Have you acted in conformity to it?—I have; if you will read the context, you will find that unless a person comes permanently into the workhouse, they do not require him to give up his furniture before he comes into the workhouse; but if a person comes permanently into the workhouse, it is very natural that he should give up his property permanently for the benefit of the parish; for who else can claim it?

13426. Will you read the whole of the paragraph?—"Where the pauper is the head of a family, and he declares that he has no work, and proves satisfactorily that he can obtain none, either in his own or in any of the parishes within a reasonable distance, he may be offered temporary relief within the workhouse until he can get some kind of work; relief, wholly or chiefly in kind, being given in the interval to the family, to prevent the necessity of immediately selling off their goods and breaking up the cottage establishment; the pauper should be distinctly told that such an arrangement can only be temporary, in order that his wife and family may seek work for him, and that the strict workhouse principle requires that all the members of a family claiming relief should enter the house, and give up their property for the benefit of the parish;" we have never gone beyond that.

13427. You have gone to that extent, and required that the families should have their goods sold for the benefit of the parish?—Never, under any circumstances that I am aware of.

13428. Then you have never followed the strict workhouse principle?—No, because we have never had persons become permanent inmates of the workhouse.

13429. There is nothing said about permanent in that passage?—No; but the context says, that if you offer temporary relief in the workhouse, that is, for the express purpose of preventing the furniture from being broken up.

13430. How do you know whether the relief will be temporary or permanent?—We have no right to suppose that it will be permanent, unless they are so old that they cannot work; this passage speaks of a person that cannot get any work, the head of a family unable to procure work.

13431. You have had no such families in the Ampthill Union?—Yes, many.

13432. Have the heads of any such families made application to you for relief?—Yes.

13433. Have you given them relief out of the workhouse?—No.

13434. When they have gone into the workhouse, have you told them that "the strict workhouse principle requires that all the members of a family claiming relief should enter the house and give up their property for the benefit of the parish"?—I do not think we have ever told them so; at least, I have not.

13435. Then have you followed up the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners?—I do not think that is my duty, but the duty of the master of the workhouse, to lay that information before them.

13436. Have not you told the Committee that you follow out the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners, and that you would remonstrate with the board of guardians if they prevented you from doing so?—Yes, I have.

13437. And

13437. And yet you have not required that the goods should be sold for the benefit of the parish?—Yes; either I do not read that right, or I conceive that the Poor Law Commissioners did not intend any thing of the sort.

13438. Are you aware what the Poor Law Amendment Act was intended to do, as stated by the Commissioners in their Report?—Yes, I know the sum and substance of it; they intended to make the idle work that never worked before; and intended to make people maintain themselves that had not done so formerly.

13439. Do you know that they have stated in their Report that it was the intention of the Legislature that relief to able-bodied persons, under any circumstances, should be denied out of the workhouse?—I do not know whether they have said, under any circumstances; I think they hold out that the relief to the able-bodied should be withheld, but not under any circumstances.

13440. Will you turn to the Second Report, page 7; will you read that passage?—" No doubt can be entertained that it was the deliberate intention of Parliament, in framing the Poor Law Amendment Act, that all out-door relief to the able-bodied should cease at the earliest period that it could safely and with propriety be put an end to; and the question which we have successively to decide as to each union, is, 'whether this time may be fairly deemed to have arrived?' and as the workhouses are sufficient for the paupers with respect to whom the difficulty is said to occur in the last-named three unions, what time less unfavourable than the present can be expected to arrive for carrying into effect the undoubted purpose of the Legislature? Our adherence, therefore, to the rule which we have issued, though in some measure at variance with the opinions and wishes of the guardians of these unions, will, we trust, be deemed consistent with the strict line of our duty."

13441. Is it not clearly expressed there that the intention of the Poor Law Amendment Act is to deny, at some period or other, all out-door relief to able-bodied persons?—Yes.

13442. And on that principle you are acting in the Ampthill Union?—Yes.

13443. Then you do ultimately intend, that when a poor man makes application for relief his goods should be sold for the benefit of the parish before he can be allowed to go into the workhouse?—No, I have no intention of the sort, nor do I think that the Legislature ever intended any thing of the kind.

13444. Then you do not think that the interpretation put upon what the Legislature intended is expressed fairly in this Report of the Poor Law Commissioners?—I cannot read the Poor Law Commissioners' Report in that light, to say that they intended that the poor man's goods should be sold unless he came permanently into the workhouse. It says that, if a man comes in temporarily for relief, this relief is to be afforded him for the express purpose of not breaking his cottage up; and if they sell off his goods, it is, of course, breaking up his cottage.

13445. When a poor man is incapable of obtaining employment, or of obtaining bread, how do you know whether his remaining in the workhouse will be permanent or otherwise?—We are quite sure that work will come round; we can form an idea when work will come round; it is always plentiful at some times of the year.

13446. Is that always the case in Bedfordshire?—Yes, I should say so.

13447. Are they all in full work now?—I should say, very few are out of work.

13448. Are there any out of work?—I have not lately performed the duties of relieving-officer, so that I cannot speak to that; but I know that I wanted a couple of men a few days ago and could not find one; and that corner, where there used to be 20 or 30 standing, is quite deserted now.

13449. Labour is not to be had at any price?—I can only say, that I wanted a couple of labourers and I could not find them.

13450. Some improvement has taken place latterly, has there?—It is the improvement in the season; there is plenty of employment if they seek it.

13451. Are they paid full wages for their labour?—They are paid the ordinary wages of the labourers of the country.

13452. Are the wages of the ordinary labourers of the country sufficient for their maintenance?—I think they are.

13453. Then, you think that the labourers in the Ampthill Union can earn wages which will give them a sufficiency of food, and of clothing, and of good shelter?—Yes.

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13454. Have you ever entered into any calculation as to what a man can live upon?—No; I have not told the Committee so.

13455. Can you tell the Committee what they can live upon?—No; that entirely depends upon the economy of the wife.

13456. Let the economy of the wife be never so good, how is a man, and his wife, and four children, to subsist upon 9*s.* a week?—I do not believe there is any such thing as a man, and his wife, and four children, subsisting upon 9*s.* a week, unless the children are very young, and then, I admit, it is hard, if none of the children can earn any thing.

13457. Are there not many such families in Bedfordshire, as a man and his wife and four children, too young to work, depending upon 9*s.* a week?—I think not; I think there are very few families of that kind.

13458. What can a man and his wife and four children obtain in Bedfordshire?—That depends upon the sizes and ages of the children.

13459. Take four children under nine years of age, and a man and his wife?—Of course I am not at all prepared to speak to that; if they have but 9*s.* a week they may live upon 9*s.* a week; and some families would live very much better than others upon the same sum; others would not live if they had twice that sum; so much depends upon the economy and frugality of the wife.

13460. I was asking you to point out to the Committee how a man is to apply his wages, having a wife the best economist; can you state what he is to have for Sunday and Monday, and every other day in the week?—No, that would be impossible.

13461. You cannot tell how to apportion it to them?—No, never having experienced that, I am not at all prepared to say.

13462. Do not you think it is your duty to ascertain whether they can obtain a sufficiency of those things or not, as relieving-officer of the Ampthill Union?—No, I do not think it forms any part of my duty to go round and inquire whether they have a sufficiency, and what they pay, and all the rest of it; for if I were to ask them they would not tell me.

13463. Have you not sometimes denied relief to able-bodied labourers because you have thought that the wages were sufficient for their maintenance?—No, I have denied it to them because they were able-bodied, and that we do not give relief to any able-bodied but in the workhouse.

13464. Have you not denied all relief to some of the able-bodied in the Ampthill Union?—I have not; the board of guardians may have done so.

13465. Have not the board of guardians acted upon your own recommendation?—No, not in that case; I should not have offered any opinion to them upon a case of that kind. I presume that is a case of some young fellow that has been before them, and they would not give him any relief, but put him upon his own resources; the board would not ask my opinion upon that subject.

13466. Have you not, in your former evidence, stated that the application is first to be made to the relieving-officer; that the relieving-officer repeats the case to the board of guardians, and that the board of guardians are, to a considerable extent, governed by the report of the relieving-officer?—I think not; I think I have not stated any thing of the sort.

13467. Have you not further stated, that if the board of guardians had not followed out what you thought was the principle of the new Poor Law, you would remonstrate with them?—No; I said if they ordered me to do any thing of that kind, I should remonstrate.

13468. You, then, are the judge of what the law is?—No doubt; I can read it.

13469. And act upon it, in your character of relieving-officer?—Yes.

13470. If the board of guardians do not act in accordance with your construction of the law, you remonstrate with them?—Yes, I certainly do so.

13471. *Chairman.*] Do you mean to say that you should remonstrate with the board of guardians if they did not act according to your construction of the law; or do you mean to say, that if you were to receive instructions from the board, not conformable with the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners, you would remonstrate against those instructions?—That is what I mean.

13472. Do you mean to say that you would remonstrate with the board if they, in the exercise of the discretion which belonged to them, acted in a manner not conformable with the law?—No.

13473. Would it be any part of your duty to remonstrate with the board, except in matters which concerned your duty?—Certainly not.

13474. Therefore when you say that you would remonstrate with the board of guardians, if they did not act in conformity with the law, you confine yourself to those particulars in which you yourself might be instructed to act?—Yes, because I should consider myself personally responsible.

13475. Mr. *Liddell.*] Suppose you were enjoined to give out-door relief to any individuals in distress whom you might think ought to be ordered into the workhouse, should you feel any compunction in giving that relief?—Certainly not; that is a matter entirely resting with the board, and not with me, or else it would be of no use their sitting there.

13476. Then that is not one of the cases in which you would decline acting under the directions of the board of guardians?—Certainly not.

13477. Mr. *Fielden.*] The Ampthill board of guardians have not received the peremptory rule from the Poor Law Commissioners, have they?—No, I think not; they have acted upon a firm conviction of its necessity.

13478. Supposing they had received the peremptory rule requiring them not to give relief out of the workhouse at all, would you then remonstrate with the board of guardians, provided they ordered you to give out-door relief?—I should not imagine that the board of guardians would make me acquainted with their having received any such rule; it forms no part of their duty to make me acquainted with it.

13479. *Chairman.*] Does it form any part of your duty to know under what rule of the Poor Law Commissioners the board of guardians is acting?—Certainly not; unless I know that they are acting in direct contradiction to some known law, or the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners; it forms no part of my duty to interfere.

13480. Mr. *Miles.*] Supposing you acted contrary to the rules and regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, and afforded relief contrary to those rules and regulations, would you not, when your accounts came to be audited, have those items struck out of the account?—Certainly I should.

13481. And that is the reason why you would at once state your views to the board of guardians, if they directed you to give relief in that manner?—Yes, for fear I might have to pay it; because if I had done any thing illegal, no matter where I received instructions, the auditor would strike it out of my accounts just the same.

13482. Mr. *Fielden.*] As you read the Poor Law Commissioners' Reports, you are not ignorant that the peremptory rule has been sent to a great number of unions?—No, I am quite aware of that.

13483. Had it been sent to the union that you are relieving-officer for, you would have acted up to that rule, would you not, or remonstrated with the board of guardians if they had refused to do so?—If the board of guardians had chosen to make me acquainted that they had received such a rule, and put that rule into my hands, I should have considered that equivalent to an Act of Parliament.

13484. Do the board of guardians receive rules you are not acquainted with?—No doubt they do; the clerk never shows me the communications with the Poor Law Commissioners unless it is something that relates to my duty.

13485. Under whom then do you act, under the board of guardians or the Poor Law Commissioners?—Under the board of guardians; I am the public servant of the board of guardians.

13486. Without any reference to the Poor Law Commissioners?—No; I am personally responsible for my conduct, independently of the board of guardians; if the board of guardians were to order me to give relief illegally, I should lose the money out of my pocket, just as if I had not been ordered to do it; I might perhaps look to the board for it.

13487. You have then three masters over you, one the Commissioners at Somerset-house, another the Assistant-commissioner, and next the board of guardians?—Yes; and I have the auditor, and he is the worst master of the whole; I may do something wrong that the Commissioners may not hear of, but I cannot do any thing wrong without the auditor coming upon my purse.

13488. Yours must be a very difficult position to fill, is it not?—No; when a person intends right, there is no difficulty in filling any situation, I think.

13489. When the Poor Law Commissioners tell you "that the strict workhouse principle requires that all the members of a family claiming relief should enter the house, and give up their property for the benefit of the parish," and when the board of guardians tell you that you are not to do that, whom would you

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you obey?—Such has not happened; the Commissioners have not told us that, without giving us a context at the same time.

13490. They have told you what the strict workhouse principle requires?—I have never been required to enforce that.

13491. *Chairman.*] With reference to the strict workhouse principle, you read an extract from the instructional letter, dated the 31st of January 1837; is that instructional letter directed to you?—No; it is directed to various boards of guardians upon their formation.

13492. Is it not a letter containing general directions as to the proceedings of the boards of guardians?—Yes.

13493. It is not directed to you in any respect?—No.

13494. You, therefore, have no concern with this letter, as the relieving-officer?—I think not.

13495. Is it not a letter "for the government of certain boards of guardians, to whom it is directed"?—It is.

13496. The letter contains this passage: "That the strict workhouse principle requires, that all the members of a family claiming relief should enter the house, and give up their property for the benefit of the parish." Does the letter contain any rule or order of the Commissioners, instructing the boards of guardians to desire you or any officer under their authority to sell the goods of any paupers before they receive relief in the workhouse?—I think not.

13497. Is it not a general observation, saying that where the strict workhouse principle is enforced the property must be given up for the benefit of the parish?—Yes.

13498. Was it not a regulation under the old law, that where a pauper was admitted to any parish workhouse, if he brought any property with him, that property became the property of the parish?—I have always understood so.

13499. Have you ever known, in the execution of your duty, in the Ampthill Union, that any pauper has been required to sell any part of his furniture as a condition of his entering the workhouse?—I have never heard of it.

13500. Have you ever heard that any parish in the Union of Ampthill has taken possession of any goods of any pauper upon his coming into the workhouse?—Never.

13501. Have you ever received any such instructions from the board of guardians?—No.

13502. You have not any such case in your union?—No.

13503. Mr. *Liddell.*] Have you ever known relief refused because the applicant was supposed to be in possession of property which he might sell?—Yes, property, not furniture.

13504. Mr. *Lister.*] What do you mean by property?—Such as a man having a house of his own, or one or more houses.

13505. Mr. *Liddell.*] Enoch Keep had a clock, which it was suggested he might sell?—That was no order of the board, it was an observation.

13506. Have you never known any instance where an individual has been compelled by distress to sell his furniture before he received relief?—I am sure that no such cases occurred in the Ampthill Union since I have had any thing to do with it.

13507. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know whether, under the old law, upon paupers being ordered into the parish workhouses, the furniture which they possessed was brought into the workhouse and considered to be the property of the parish?—Yes.

13508. Do you happen to know whether, in the workhouse of the parish of Ampthill, there was property of that description?—Yes.

13509. And was it sold for the benefit of the parish upon the death of the parties?—It was, when the parish of Ampthill workhouse was broken up; there are some articles now in the union workhouse that were valued by an auctioneer out of the parish of Ampthill workhouse.

13510. Mr. *Lister.*] Do you know sufficiently of the old law to say whether, if a magistrate made an order, and the overseer took the parties to the workhouse, the order ceased?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with the old law; I never acted as a parish officer at all, and I am not prepared to speak to the old law.

13511. Mr. *Fielden.*] Had Lack and Cox any furniture when they went into the workhouse?—I am not aware; I did not give Cox an order to go into the workhouse; Lack, I believe I did; Lack had furniture, but he was not required to sell any part of it.

13512. What became of it?—I should suppose he left it with some neighbour.

13513. Do you know whether he left any furniture with any neighbour or not?—No,

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—No, I do not; he did not go in when I gave him the order; afterwards I found that he had gone in; it was his business to take care of the articles which he possessed, or to take them into the workhouse; had he taken them into the workhouse he would have been allowed to take them out when he left.

13514. How do you know that he had furniture?—His wife, and himself and all his children could not have lived in a cottage without furniture.

13515. Could they not have sold their furniture before they asked for relief?—I do not think Lack was one of that sort that he would sell all his furniture before he asked for relief.

13516. Do you know that he had furniture?—I do not.

13517. You have never seen any furniture of his?—No; I never went into the cottage.

13518. Had Cox any furniture?—Cox never made any application to me; he made application to the master of the workhouse, and the master of the workhouse received him in; and the board of guardians afterwards confirmed the order.

13519. In a former part of your evidence relative to the wages of Wilson, you stated them to be 13*s.* a-week, and you said that you could ascertain the fact; have you made any inquiry what the wages were?—I have; I told you at the time that I got that from his master in the street, as far as he could remember it; but since that Mr. Bennett has sent me a note stating what it actually is throughout the year, and it is 11*s.* per week throughout the year.

13520. What you stated to be 13*s.* in your former evidence is now reduced to 11*s.*?—I stated that Mr. Bennett had told me so, the person who employed him.

13521. And Mr. Bennett, who had told you so, has now sent in a statement that his wages were 11*s.* instead of 13*s.*?—Yes; Mr. Bennett spoke from recollection.

13522. *Chairman.*] Is the man in the constant employment of Mr. Bennett?—Yes.

13523. Receiving 11*s.* a week constantly?—No, he was receiving 10*s.* and 11*s.* and 12*s.*, and different sums; he has added up those sums and divided them by 52, and that gives 11*s.* per week.

13524. If he received different sums each week, might there not be particular weeks in which he earned 13*s.* a week?—Yes, there were some weeks in which he earned 1*l.*, and many in which he earned 12*s.* and 12*s.* 6*d.*; and perhaps it was from a recollection of those weeks that Mr. Bennett spoke.

13525. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does that paper, which you now produce, contain a statement of his wages week by week?—Yes.

13526. Is that Mr. Bennett's writing?—Yes.

[*The Witness delivered in the same, which was read as follows:*]

Dear Sir, Bickerings Park, May 17, 1838.

By your request I forward you the earnings of James Wilson, of Steppingley, for 52 weeks, which are a little more than 11*s.* per week, which will be seen from the weekly account, as follows:

1837:	£.	s.	d.	1837:	£.	s.	d.	1838:	£.	s.	d.
May - 20	–	9	6	September 1	1	–	–	January 5	–	9	–
„ - 27	–	9	–	„ - 8	–	10	–	„ - 12	–	10	6
				„ - 15	–	10	–	„ - 19	–	10	–
				„ - 22	–	9	–	„ - 26	–	12	–
June - 3	–	10	–	„ - 29	–	10	–	February 2	–	12	–
„ - 10	–	9	8	October 6	–	9	–	„ - 9	–	12	–
„ 17	–	9	–	„ - 13	–	9	–	„ - 16	–	12	–
„ - 24	–	10	–	„ - 20	–	9	–	„ - 23	–	9	–
				„ - 27	–	9	–	March - 2	–	10	6
July - 1	–	11	3	November 3	–	9	–	„ - 9	–	12	6
„ - 8	–	10	–	„ - 10	–	9	–	„ - 16	–	12	–
„ - 15	–	10	4½	„ - 17	–	9	–	„ - 23	–	19	–
„ - 22	–	12	–	„ - 24	–	9	–	„ - 30	–	12	–
„ - 29	–	12	–	December 1	–	9	–	April - 6	–	12	–
				„ - 8	–	9	–	„ - 13	–	9	–
August - 4	–	12	–	„ - 15	–	9	–	„ - 20	–	10	6
„ - 11	1	–	–	„ - 22	–	9	–	„ - 27	–	12	6
„ - 18	1	–	–	„ - 29	–	10	–	May - 4	–	12	6
„ - 25	1	–	–					„ - 11	–	12	6
									28	13	3½

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52) 573 (11*s.* p^r^w^k^.

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Yours, &c.

To Mr. Marshall, Ampthill. (signed) *Samuel Bennett.*

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13527. *Chairman.*] What is the highest sum he earns in any week?—One pound, for a month together, and there are many weeks when he has 12*s.*; a quarter of the time he has 12*s.* a week, and four weeks 1*l.*, and sometimes 10*s.* and sometimes 11*s.*

13528. Mr. *Fielden.*] What family had Wilson?—Two children and the wife.

13529. Could his wife earn any thing?—Yes, I should think she could, a little.

13530. What were his family employed on?—Lace-making; they are all lace-makers at Steppingley; there are no plaiters there; she could not earn any great deal.

13531. When Wilson made application to you for relief, was his wife sick?—Yes, so he stated.

13532. And you refused him relief because he was an able-bodied labourer?—Yes, and able to procure that which he asked me for; at least I did not consider it a case of emergency, and I told him he might come to the board; this was on the Monday; he might come to the board on Thursday.

13533. *Chairman.*] Did he come to the board?—No, he did not; his wife came to the board last Thursday, and I was there.

13534. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you give her that relief?—Certainly not; she asked for medical relief, a thing that is provided there for almost a nominal sum; there is Mr. Linsdell, and the rector of the parish, and a few other gentlemen subscribe there and pay the doctor, and they merely get a nominal sum from the labourers, and they are entitled to call for a doctor at any time they think proper, for themselves or any part of their family.

13535. *Chairman.*] In that parish, therefore, medical relief is attended with very little expense to the poor people?—Very little.

13536. Mr. *Fielden.*] Can they obtain medical relief without any order from you, or from any body else?—Yes.

13537. What was her reason for applying for medical relief, when she could get it without applying?—Her first application was for medical relief; but when that was given, I dare say she would want some other relief. The board told her that she might get the medical relief in that way, and that if she wanted any other relief they must have the head of the family there, in order to speak to him about his earnings.

13538. You remember the case of Susan Bunker, who made application to you for relief?—Yes.

13539. What was the answer you gave her when she made the application?—This is my former evidence upon that case:—"The observation I have to make upon that is, that the woman applied for out-door relief for her son, and not for medical aid, as stated; and, as she came late, she did not apply to me, but at the board, to be let in; and, contrary to the usual rule of the board, they did let her come in, and heard her story, which it appears was never booked; she applied for out-door relief for her son, and she was told to bring that son into the workhouse, for the benefit of the workhouse infirmary. They considered that the boy would be taken much better care of there than she could take care of him." That is the answer I gave, and I believe that is correct, to the best of my belief.

13540. The board, you stated, required that this woman's son should come into the infirmary of the workhouse; did that son come into the workhouse?—No, he did not.

13541. What became of him?—The mother kept him at home until he died, it seems.

13542. How long was it after this application that the son died?—I cannot exactly tell you when he died, not from any documents here.

13543. Did the woman receive any relief up to the time of his death?—No.

13544. Has she been relieved since his death?—No, only with the expense of the coffin.

13545. That is another case in which you could give a coffin, though you denied relief to the widow while her son was living?—Those are two different cases; giving a coffin is quite different to giving relief to a person; a coffin we must give; the body must be buried; but it is discretionary with the board of guardians whether they will give out-door relief to a person who is alive and in health.

13546. Can you state what the income of widow Bunker was at the time she made application to you for relief?—No, I did not inquire, because she did not make application to me, but as I came out of the board-room; and I told her that she

she could not see the board; and it was one of the guardians, I think Mr. Musgrave, who desired she might be admitted, in order to hear what she had to say.

13547. *Chairman.*] Did the board of guardians hear that case, and decide upon it?—Yes, they did, and considered that the boy would be much better off in the workhouse infirmary.

13548. Mr. *Fielden.*] You do not know any thing about the income of the family before the death of the son?—No, I cannot speak to the earnings at all; I dare say the board asked those questions, and satisfied themselves upon the point.

13549. Was it one of the guardians who recommended that she should be admitted to the board?—Yes.

13550. Who was that guardian?—I rather think it was Mr. Musgrave himself, the chairman.

13551. Did Mr. Musgrave think that she ought to have some relief?—No; Mr. Musgrave seemed to think that the board had better hear what the woman had to say, though she had applied too late to have her application entered.

13552. *Chairman.*] The woman came late?—Yes, that was the fact; the board was about rising, and most of the members had gone.

13553. And the board, rather than send her away without hearing her story, desired that she might be admitted, and did hear her story?—Yes.

13554. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did not some conversation pass between you and Susan Bunker, at the place where you relieved the poor in the parish where she lives?—Yes.

13555. What conversation passed?—That has been already stated in 9379.

13556. Will you read it?—"The boy died on Tuesday; a coffin was provided for the boy, and he was buried on the following Monday; when I went over to Steppingley, the woman applied to me for a remuneration for the two women who had laid the boy out; I told her that I was unable to grant that, that was a thing that must be done by the overseer; I had told her this; she was very importunate about getting reimbursed for this money to the two women; and, at the same time, I had another application: there is no place to take applications there, except in the street, and I had five or six people round me at the time; I had given her an answer, and was speaking to another, and she interrupted me; I said, 'My good woman, let me pay some attention to the living, I cannot do your boy any good now;' and she said, 'No, and you never did him any good when he was alive,' and I made no answer to that; this is a minute of the board of guardians of the 21st of April 1836, 'That no bill from any parish in this union, presented by relieving-officers to this board can be allowed without such bill having first been examined and allowed by the overseers of such parish;' the consequence would have been, that, had I paid that woman for the attendance of the women on her son, I could not have got reimbursed, therefore it had to be paid by the overseer; the overseer had to make out a bill, signed by him, which would have been laid by me before the next board, and the money allowed, if thought necessary; instead of that, no bill came to me."

13557. Had she ever made a former application to you for relief?—Yes, I think she had.

13558. Did you deny her relief upon the former occasion?—She had been before the board of guardians previously to that, and I do not remember that she ever had any relief, at least, I never administered any to her.

13559. Do you know what the income of Susan Bunker was?—She kept her father's house; and her boy was pretty constantly at work; when he was alive he used to work for Mr. Nevis; and she had another child besides that; she was never considered very badly off.

13560. When you say she was never considered very badly off; by whom was she never considered very badly off?—By the board of guardians, or by her neighbours.

13561. Did you ever visit her at her house?—She had no house; she lived at her father's.

13562. Did you visit her at her father's?—No; she never made application, I think, while I was relieving-officer of that part of the district.

13563. But she was so distressed that when the boy died you provided her with the coffin?—No; I do not know that she was distressed, but I had not the means of proving whether she was or was not; the coffin must necessarily be provided; the body could not lie above ground while that matter was discussed, and, therefore, I ordered it.

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13564. Did you order it without consulting the board?—Yes, I did; I never have to consult the board about whether I should order a coffin.

13565. The practice is, when the case requires it, that you should order a coffin without consulting the board?—Yes, because it is presumed that the body will require it.

13566. In the case of Sarah Billington, was she denied relief by the board when she made application?—She was denied an increase of relief; she had 1*s.* 6*d.*; she applied to have that 1*s.* 6*d.* increased, which the board refused.

13567. Did not Sarah Billington attend for a number of hours when the board was sitting, and was refused admittance?—I do not know how many hours she attended; she had had her case previously examined, and she was refused an increase of relief; and on the board rising one day she made another application to be admitted, and I refused her admission to the board, in the first place, because she had made no second application to me, and, in the second place, because the relief cases had been gone through, and the board was rising.

13568. In the latter case how long had she been waiting when you refused her admittance to the board?—I never asked her.

13569. Had you not seen her for some time there?—No.

13570. *Chairman.*] You had been in the board-room, probably?—Yes, I go into the board-room as soon as any of the guardians, sometimes before any of them.

13571. Mr. *Fielden.*] When was the previous application made, to which you have now referred?—I do not exactly know; some five or six weeks previously.

13572. Have you the books here?—I have the books; but that has been already discussed, and it has been explained that at that time the chairman was not in the habit of writing against their names when there was no increase; if there was no increase ordered, the amount stood as it was, no new memorandum was made; but since that time the chairman has always written against them "refused increase" such a week, and put his initials against it, in order that he might refer to it.

13573. Do you know that she was recommended to go to the board by one of the guardians of the Ampthill Union?—No; I know that it has been said so; I know nothing further than that, that would not make any difference.

13574. You would refuse her, whether the guardian told her to come or not?—Unless she said she had come by order of a guardian; if she told me that, I should go to the guardian and tell him that the woman was there, and have left the introducing her to the board to him, and not myself have introduced a woman who had been there a few weeks before.

13575. *Chairman.*] When you object to bring before the board of guardians a case that may recently have been considered, how do you ascertain that no new change of circumstances has taken place in the interim?—I always ask them, not in that case, because there was no time, and I could not introduce this case to the board after the relief cases had been gone through; or the board might sit there till 12 o'clock at night, if there were no regularity of proceedings.

13576. Admitting the necessity of regularity, and that the parties should previously apply to you in order that the board of guardians may know the circumstances of the case, may it not happen that with those poor people a change in their circumstances may take place in a short time, so as to make a change in the amount of their relief necessary?—Certainly; and I always lay such a case before the board.

13577. When a pauper applies for admission to the board, do you always take care to make particular inquiries whether any change has taken place in their circumstances?—Yes.

13578. Supposing any change, however small, has taken place in their circumstances, you put them upon the application-book and bring the case before the board?—Yes, always.

13579. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was not there a guardian of the name of Mr. Thomas?—Yes, he is a guardian of the parish to which this woman belongs, but not guardian of the parish in which she resides.

13580. Have you ever inquired of Mr. Thomas whether he did recommend her to come before the board of guardians or not?—Yes, I think I had some little conversation about it with Mr. Thomas; he said the woman applied to him to get her an increase of allowance, and he said he could not do it; "You must come to the board;" she did not tell Mr. Thomas that she had but recently been to the board,

board, but she came there again; how long she had been waiting there I cannot say, but I never saw any thing of her till past two o'clock.

13581. Have you seen Mr. Thomas since you have given evidence here, in order to ascertain whether he did recommend her to come to the board?—No, I have not; Mr. Thomas told me himself that that was the occurrence; the woman applied to him to get an increase of allowance, as though the matter rested with him, and he told her he could not do it, she must come to the board.

13582. Has Mr. Thomas ever expressed any surprise to you that this woman should have been denied relief upon this occasion?—No, he never has; because I have explained to Mr. Thomas the reason she was denied it; I was desired, when she was refused relief, to ask Mr. Bull (she stated that she could not see to work) whether there was any thing particularly the matter with her eyes; he said, nothing more than with any body else of her age (65 years); he said if she was unfit to make lace she could see well enough to do any bustling work, and I mentioned that to the board, which confirmed them more than ever in their opinion that they were perfectly justified in withholding increased allowance from her.

13583. Is she receiving any relief now?—I cannot tell that, for I have not had any thing to do with the relief for the last quarter of a year; from the minute-book it appears that she is receiving 1*s.* 6*d.* per week relief now.

13584. You accompanied Mr. Pearse to make inquiries as to the wages of those different labourers in the Ampthill Union on the first day that he went out?—I did, of a few of them.

13585. How many families did you and Mr. Pearse visit together?—Twenty-one.

13586. Have you the names of them?—Yes, I have.

13587. Can you tell where they stand in the list which is given in, as to which list they belong?—I have William Chance, he belongs to the 48 list; then I have Henry Hyde, he belongs to the 30 list, and Peter Chance belongs to the 30, Thomas Yates belongs to the 30, William Aldridge belongs to the 48 list, Joseph Phillips to the 48, William Marlow to the 48, Joseph Lingard to the 48, John Carter to the 48, Joseph Chew to the 48, Jacob Bonner to the 48, George Jackson to the 48, James Sherman to the 48, Richard Short to the 48, Jesse Short to the 48, Edward Eaton to the 30, John Knight to the 48, John King to the 48, William Bonner to the 48, and Crawley Bonner to the 30.

13588. Did you find any difficulty in obtaining answers from those men relative to their wages?—We saw but few of the men; it chiefly happened that the men were at work at the time; the chief of the answers were from the women.

13589. Were the earnings of the husbands given by the women?—In a great measure they were.

13590. The same as they are returned in Mr. Pearse's table?—Yes.

13591. Did you find any difficulty in getting those answers?—Yes; it took Mr. Pearse a great deal of pains to worm it out of them, I thought, but I did not see any incivility used to Mr. Pearse while I was with him, but they seemed to be very loth to state their earnings.

13592. In what way did they show their reluctance to state their earnings?—For some time saying they did not know, and at last, Mr. Pearse putting it into their heads whether the men did not work at such a place, and asking how long they remained there, would apparently recollect, but it was with reluctance that they gave it.

13593. Did you endeavour to ascertain what their earnings were in 1834?—No, we made no attempt whatever; Mr. Pearse quite declined that.

13594. You did not live in Ampthill Union in 1834?—No, I did not.

13595. The earnings you receive from those 30 are the same that are stated in Mr. Pearse's table?—Yes, they are; Mr. Pearse compared it with my book.

13596. Are any of them corrected in the list which you have seen this morning?—No, none of them needed correction; those that Mr. Pearse corrected are those in which he took the information without me, when he has obtained the information from the masters.

13597. What was the reason you did not accompany Mr. Pearse in the subsequent part of this inquiry?—Mr. Pearse told me that he thought he should be able to do it better without me; that he thought he saw a reluctance and a want of respect towards him when they saw me enter with him, which would not be evinced if he were by himself.

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13598. Were any of the labourers of those families that you visited with Mr. Pearse employed in task-work in the year 1837?—I observed Peter Chance was jobbing, chiefly thrashing, at Mr. Sole's for the last three years; his average wages were 9*s.* a week; what he got besides he did not know; we got that from Mr. Sole: then here is another, Henry Hyde; we found he was jobbing and hedging by the great, that is, task-work.

13599. Did you put any questions as to the price of great-work, whether it had risen or fallen since the Poor Law came into operation?—No; Mr. Pearse did not ask those questions in my presence.

13600. And you did not?—I did not undertake to inquire myself; I merely went as Mr. Pearse's clerk.

13601. Do you know whether task-work has risen or fallen in price since you became relieving-officer of the Ampthill Union?—I cannot speak from my own knowledge to that; and perhaps it is better to leave it to those who can speak; as far as I am able to judge, I have heard that it is risen, but I am not prepared to prove it, and therefore I had better decline to give an opinion upon it; the farmers who employ those people can speak better upon that than I can.

Henry Musgrave Musgrave, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

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13602. Mr. *Fielden.*] ARE you a guardian of the Ampthill Union?—I am now an *ex-officio* guardian.

13603. You were chairman of the board up to the end of last year?—I was.

13604. And you are not now?—I resigned in March last.

13605. Have you any objection to state to the Committee the reason why you resigned?—No, I have no objection to state it.

13606. What was the reason for your resigning the office of chairman of the board?—I had had the honour of filling the office of chairman ever since the formation of the Ampthill Union in our county, nearly three years; I had been very anxious to give my undivided attention to the fair working of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and having made it my duty to attend weekly, excepting at times when I was obliged to attend the assizes or quarter sessions, I found it occupied a great deal of my time, and I was rather anxious to resign, particularly as the lord-lieutenant of our county is about residing in it more than he has been able to do; I had therefore great pleasure in proposing his lordship as the chairman, and tendering my resignation to the board, which was accepted.

13607. You reside in Shitlington parish; is that the parish the farthest distant from the place of meeting of the board?—I think it is six miles and a half by the footway; seven miles by the road.

13608. Have there been any guardians returned for Shitlington parish in the last election?—There was some very gross negligence displayed; I was not in the parish at the time of the election of guardians, but there was some neglect on the part of the overseers. One person came forward and said he would act as a guardian; and the inhabitants were impressed with an idea that that promise would be kept; and when the day of election came, what is every body's business, according to the old adage, is no one's; but the blunder has since been explained to the central board, and I believe an order has since been sent down for the election of guardians; but a gentleman is in the room who can speak with more certainty to the point.

13609. You do not know who the guardians are, if any have been appointed?—No, I do not; I cannot state for certain; I have heard that two of the principal rate-payers in the parish were proposed as guardians, but I cannot speak with certainty.

13610. Is there any other parish in the Ampthill Union for which no guardians have been returned at the late election?—I believe Westoning is without a guardian; but I think the clerk to the board can give you information upon this point better than I can.

13611. Do you attend the board now as *ex-officio* guardian, when it sits?—I should have had great pleasure in doing so had I been in the county, but I have not been in the county since the formation of the new board, with the exception of a week, when I was not able to attend.

13612. You do not know whether any guardians have attended from Shitlington, or

or whether any guardians have attended from Westoning?—No, I cannot answer that question.

13613. Do you know what the reason was that no guardians were returned from Westoning?—There are very few persons in that parish who can read.

13614. Do you consider that it is essential that they should be able to read, in order that they may know whether a poor person requires relief or not?—I think it is necessary that the guardians should be able to read.

13615. Is it indispensably necessary for a person to be able to read, in order to know whether relief should be given to a poor person or not?—Certainly not.

13616. He might be as good a judge of the wants of a poor person, not being able to read, as being able to read?—Yes.

13617. Therefore not being able to read does not make them ineligible to act on the board of guardians?—Certainly not.

13618. You are aware of the petition that has been sent up from the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union?—Yes.

13619. Complaining of certain things alleged in the petition; did that petition bear your signature?—It did.

13620. And had it the signature of the whole board of guardians?—I think it had, at all events, a majority; here are 18 guardians who signed it out of 21.

13621. Will you read the petition?—This was presented the 7th of March, by Lord Charles Russell: "The humble petition of the guardians of the poor of the Union of Ampthill, in the county of Bedford, sheweth, That your petitioners view with deep concern the attempts which have been, and still continue to be made in various parts of the country, to thwart the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act, by throwing unmerited odium on that highly beneficial measure, and endeavouring to bring into disrepute those who are concerned in carrying out its provisions; That the promulgation of false and mischievous statements, obtained by a system of espionage, by individuals who have associated themselves with the poorer classes of society, has created in them feelings of discontent and insubordination and expressions of hostility to the measure; That your petitioners, from a practical experience of nearly three years, entertain opinions the very reverse of those so unjustly circulated, and repudiate the assertion which appears to have made an undue impression on the minds of the uneducated part of society, that the Poor Law Amendment Act was passed for the sole purpose of effecting a saving to the rate-payers of the kingdom, and consider the charge rebutted by the acknowledged benefits conferred on the community at large, in having led to habits of sobriety and moral rectitude among the labouring classes, compelled the idle to become industrious, and the pauper pensioner to maintain himself and family by the honest exercise of his own exertions; That your petitioners consider that one of the greatest benefits obtained by the Poor Law Amendment Act is the mode prescribed for the election of guardians, by which a responsible body of men are chosen by the rate-payers, who become invested with the local management of the rates and the relief of the poor, a mode of election which constitutes, by the free and deliberate choice of the community, a body of representatives favourable to the ends of justice, having the temporal and moral welfare of their poorer brethren more in view than the parochial officers constituted under the old system of relief, who but too frequently looked more to personal interests than to the improvement of the pauper population, or the protection of the rate-payers from an abusive administration of their funds; That your petitioners are enabled from past experience to speak decidedly as to the benefits which have resulted to this union by the introduction of the Act, not only as regards the moral improvement and independent employment of the poor, but in the reduction of the heavy burden of poor-rates, and this too without diminishing the comforts of the aged and infirm poor, or attempting to reject the right of the destitute to parochial relief; That your petitioners consider it a duty incumbent on them as guardians of the poor to counteract by all the means in their power the evils which might result from misrepresentations industriously circulated by the opponents of the measure, and regret that parties should be found from political motives to evince so much decided hostility to a law alike conducive to the interest, comfort and happiness of society at large, and to the moral improvement and temporal welfare of the poor in particular; That your petitioners beg to express to your honourable House the high opinion they entertain of the advantage this union has derived from the candour, zeal and ability with which the Poor Law Commis-

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sioners have exercised the important functions entrusted to them by the Legislature, and acknowledge with gratitude the valuable information and assistance they have invariably obtained from them in all matters of doubt and difficulty; That your petitioners beg to convey to your honourable House their earnest prayer that whatever alterations may be suggested in the minor details of the Act, the principles of the Bill may be firmly adhered to, and that no measure approaching the old allowance-system may be revived; That while your petitioners concur in any inquiry based upon the administration of the existing law, on the evidence of those who have not committed themselves as enemies of the Bill, they feel justified in expressing a hope that in the prosecution of such inquiry, neither your honourable House nor any Committee appointed for the purpose, will allow themselves to be influenced by the mere testimony of individuals who have avowed themselves sworn enemies to the measure, nor by isolated cases of hardship which are exceptions to the rule, and which it is the object of the new law to remedy, and much less so by petitions which have been presented to the Legislature against the measure, from places where the Act in question has never been introduced; Your petitioners moreover pray, that in the event of charges against the Poor Law Amendment Act being proved to be false, and to have been advanced with culpable heedlessness or malice, that proper steps may be taken for the condemnation of those who by such means disturb the minds of the uninformed, and injure the labouring classes, by calling them from their peaceful avocations, to assemble in mobs for the purpose of intimidating the inhabitants of towns situated in rural districts, and which, if persisted in, must tend to the injury of themselves and families; And your petitioners will ever pray." Then there is my signature, and the vice-chairman's, and 16 guardians'.

13622. Where was that petition got up; how did it originate?—It was a subject of discussion at the board, and it was resolved, I believe, unanimously, by the guardians who were present on that day, that the petition should be forwarded to The House of Commons.

13623. Who drew up the petition?—I drew up the petition.

13624. Then it is your work?—No, it is not mine; if the Committee will allow me to refer to the minute-book,—several petitions had been daily presented to The House from various parts of England, and a conversation took place I believe, more than once, between the guardians of our board, and one of them read at the board a petition which had been presented to The House from a very extensive union, and was anxious that that petition should be adopted; I thought, at all events, we had better not stultify ourselves by letting it appear that we could not act without a precedent, and I said, "Will you undertake to draw up a petition?" the gentleman to whom I appealed said, "No, I had rather you should draw up something of the kind." I then asked another guardian if he could draw up a petition, and he declined, and in the end I said, "I dare say we shall have three or four petitions at the next meeting, and we will take them into consideration then;" and I believe various alterations were made in the rough copy before it was adopted by the board.

13625. Mr. *Miles.*] Then, that petition does not alone speak your sentiments, but it speaks the sentiments of the board over which you presided?—Decidedly.

13626. And was the subject of discussion at the board previously to its being sent up for presentation?—Yes.

13627. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Had you collected the sentiments of the board before you drew up the petition?—Yes.

13628. You considered the petition to be expressive of the sentiments of the board, though in language chosen by yourself?—I did; I remember perfectly, as the chairman, putting it to the board, upon it being moved by one guardian and seconded, that the petition that I had drawn up should be fairly copied and presented by Lord Charles Russell to The House; but it appears that what I considered a draft of the petition, a guardian proposed should be adopted; that was seconded, and I put it to the board, and my draft was actually signed by the guardians and sent up to The House; it had been previously discussed at meetings which took place.

13629. Mr. *Fielden.*] There was no resolution passed by the board which appears on their minutes?—No, I cannot find any.

13630. How long was it after the petition was first proposed before it was drawn up and submitted for signature?—A week.

13631. What

13631. What first gave rise to a proposal that a petition should be presented?—Some of the guardians remarked that they had read the statements of different public meetings in various parts of England, and the extraordinary language that had been used; Mr. Stevens, in particular, avowed himself a sworn enemy to the measure; he was one of the persons who used very extraordinary language, not to use a stronger term, tending to excite the populace.

13632. Had it no reference to what had taken place in the Ampthill Union?—This was the origin of it: one of the guardians brought a petition to our board, which was read by the clerk, and he said, "I cannot see any thing that requires the least alteration, and I beg leave to propose that the petition which I present be adopted;" then it struck me as rather ridiculous that we should take as a precedent, word for word, what the guardians in another union had drawn up; and I said, "No, do not let us stultify ourselves in that manner;" and upon that a conversation took place; and I called upon the guardian who presented the petition, and said, "Will you draw up a petition to meet your views?" and he said, "No, I would rather you do it;" and I referred to another guardian; and at last they said, "Perhaps you will read the petition and put something together."

13633. There was another petition laid before the board before this; who laid that before the board?—The Reverend James Beard.

13634. Have you a copy of that petition?—No, I think he took it away with him.

13635. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Was that a printed form?—Mr. Beard said, "This is a petition exactly applicable to the views that we entertain."

13636. It was a petition that had been presented to The House?—Yes; I forget from what union.

13637. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is Mr. Beard one of the guardians of the Ampthill Union?—Yes, he is an *ex-officio* guardian.

13638. Have you no resolution respecting Mr. Beard's petition that was proposed, entered on the minutes?—No, it was not carried.

13639. Was it read?—Yes.

13640. What was the reason why it was not carried?—I have endeavoured to explain; I thought it so extremely absurd that we should take, word for word, that petition.

13641. There is a considerable number of allegations in this petition which you, as chairman of the Ampthill board of guardians, know to be true?—Yes, I think so.

13642. The first allegation states, "That the promulgation of false and mischievous statements, obtained by a system of espionage by individuals who have associated themselves with the poorer classes of society, has created in them feelings of discontent and insubordination and expressions of hostility to the measure;" what do you mean by that allegation?—Persons who have made various speeches at public meetings, stating all sorts of cruelties and hardships which have attended the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and persons who have gone about collecting parties together in different beer-houses, not in the presence of the employers, and giving them beer, and employing the loosest characters in the parish.

13643. Who are the parties that you allude to?—I have no hesitation in candidly confessing that the system that was adopted, without any disrespect to Messrs. Crabtree and Turner, I call that a sort of spy system; I think that a system of espionage, going behind our backs.

13644. You do now bring it home to what has taken place in the Ampthill Union?—I think that may be applied to other unions.

13645. Was it intended to represent what had taken place in the Ampthill Union?—Yes, to a certain extent.

13646. What do you mean by the espionage which you speak of?—I call parties coming down and holding out to the labouring classes that they are persons vested with great power; in fact, they went by the name of the Queen's Commissioners; that is the general term by which they were designated; that their powers were such that they came and told them that the law would be completely altered; they made certain statements to them that they could effect a complete change.

13647. Did you hear any such representations from either Mr. Turner or Mr. Crabtree?—No, I had never any conversation with either of them, except at Ampthill, one day, and I do not know that that was connected with the Poor Law;

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Law; but persons who have seen Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree (which is not evidence) have made that representation to me.

13648. Who were they?—I can hardly bear in mind now; two persons in my own parish.

13649. When you put forth an allegation in a petition, and as you are the drawer of this petition, should you not be prepared to prove all that you allege?—Yes.

13650. Are you prepared to prove that Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree acted in the capacity of spies on any one occasion?—I think it borders very closely upon it; persons coming down into different parishes, employing men to go about and collect together all sorts of persons at the beer-houses, treating them with beer, and not endeavouring to satisfy themselves whether the statements which they received from the labourers, the wives, the husbands and the boys, were the whole truth, and not calling upon the employers.

13651. Did you ever see the instructions that Turner and Crabtree had when they came down to Ampthill?—No, I never did.

13652. Did you never hear of them?—No, I did not; in this Committee-room I have heard it stated by Mr. Turner, that he showed some letter when he went to Bedford, to Mr. Adey; I believe he met Mr. Adey at Bedford workhouse, or in the town, and he showed him a letter; I think I have heard that stated in the course of the examination, but I forget, at this moment, what the nature of the communication was.

13653. Are you prepared to prove the truth of this first allegation in the petition?—Yes; in my own mind I am quite satisfied that the greater part of the statement which Mr. Turner made to the editor of the paper, called "The Northern Star," has been most completely refuted in the course of this examination.

13654. You state here, "that the promulgation of false and mischievous statements, obtained by a system of espionage, by individuals who associate themselves with the poorer classes of society, has created in them feelings of discontent and insubordination, and expressions of hostility to the measure;" with respect to the false and mischievous statements, which you allude to here, by whom were those false and mischievous statements made?—By Mr. Turner, or a person who calls himself Paul Pry; for there was an anonymous signature sent; but it is Mr. Turner or Mr. Crabtree; at all events, Mr. Turner's name appears to the first letter; two letters appeared in "The Northern Star" and were subsequently copied into two of our county papers.

13655. You do not mean that Paul Pry, the name attached to the article in the newspaper, is the person you allude to?—I have very little doubt in my own mind who that was.

13656. Who do you think it was?—I think it was Mr. Turner or Mr. Crabtree.

13657. Can you bring that home to them?—I do not know that I can prove Paul Pry to be Mr. Turner, but it is very possible.

13658. Mr. *Miles.*] What is there that you conceive to be false or mischievous in any thing that Mr. Turner wrote, and signed his name to in "The Northern Star"?—I think a great part of the statement was false and mischievous, to which Mr. Turner signed his name.

13659. That was the general feeling of the board of guardians who signed the petition at that time?—Yes.

13660. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Has any thing occurred since to alter that opinion?—No, nothing; it has rather been confirmed.

13661. Mr. *Fielden.*] Are you aware that four cases mentioned in that letter, one of Virgin, another of Odell, another of Cole, and another of Herbert, have been proved and admitted before this Committee to be correct?—No, I do not think they have been proved to be correct.

13662. Are you not aware that the Committee have expressed an opinion that those cases are made out?—No, I am not at all aware of the opinion of the Committee.

13663. What is it that you allude to that was false and mischievous, and which you now fix on Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree?—The greater part of the statements in the letter, and in the speeches which have been addressed to the multitude in different places in England, by parties who are inimical to the Poor Law Amendment Act.

13664. Have

13664. Have not the people of England as good a right to entertain their opinions as to the Poor Law Act as the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union?—Decidedly.

13665.—Is there any thing either false or mischievous in statements as to the operation of the law?—Yes, if statements have been made which have not turned out to be correct.

13666. What are those?—Mr. Bull has made different statements, which on inquiry have not turned out to be as he represented them to the multitude.

13667. What statement?—I read the statement which Mr. Bull made to the people in the north, and I heard Mr. Bull examined before this Committee, and what he stated about a young woman having been flogged by the master of the union workhouse, that was incorrect.

13668. How do you know that that was not correct?—I have seen Mr. Bull's letter since he has returned into the north, which is at variance with the statement which he made before this Committee on the first day that he was examined; and then, when I hear of gentlemen at meetings stating that they would plunge a dagger into the breast of the governor of a workhouse; those are dreadful statements to hear in these enlightened times.

13669. Had you any reference to Mr. Turner's letter when you penned this petition?—This is made to apply generally to all those who make those various mis-statements.

13670. What is there false or mischievous in it?—I can only repeat, that I think the greater part of the letter which appeared with Mr. Turner's signature, has been proved to be false.

13671. Would this petition ever have been sent up from the board, if Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree had not been down to the Ampthill Union?—Yes, I think so.

13672. Worded in the same way?—No; perhaps I should have left out some part of it.

13673. You had an eye to them when you wrote this petition?—Not entirely to them.

13674. What part did you intend to apply to them, and what part did you intend to apply to others?—It is intended to be applicable to all those who have avowed themselves enemies to the Poor Law Amendment Act, many of them through political motives.

13675. Is that the only answer you can give to the question?—I do not know that I can particularize any particular line in this that is intended to apply more to Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree than to other persons in England who have expressed themselves in such a way as does not fall in with the views of the guardians of the Ampthill Union.

13676. Was this petition read to the guardians of the Ampthill Union before they signed it?—I read it to them.

13677. You read the whole of it, in the presence of those parties who have signed it?—Yes, I think so.

13678. Are you quite certain of that?—Yes, I think so; perhaps some may have read it afterwards, and signed it, but I am convinced that no person put his name there, if he had common sense, without seeing what he did sign.

13679. You think they would not have had common sense if they put their name to it without having read it or heard it read?—No.

13680. If any of those persons whose names are attached to this petition neither read it nor heard it read, you would think they were not possessed of common sense?—I should say that he was an ass for signing it; and so is any man who signs a paper without knowing what it is that he puts his name to.

13681. Then, it was the opinion of 18 guardians of the board, that false and malicious statements had been promulgated by Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree, in the Ampthill Union?—Not only by them; it does not say in the Ampthill Union; it applies to different parts of England.

13682. Where has there been any espionage in other parts of England, that has come within their knowledge?—Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree have been in the Woburn Union, the Biggleswade Union and the Bedford Union.

13683. Do you mean to confine the espionage to the Bedfordshire Unions?—I think so, as far as it is applicable to Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree.

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13684. Are you aware that one of the authorities of the Biggleswade Union invited inquiry amongst the poor people, in order to ascertain whether the law worked as well as it had been represented to do?—No, I have nothing to do with the Biggleswade Union; I am very seldom there.

13685. If the system was working so well as you state it to be in this petition, could you have any fear of any harm being done by any inquiry on the spot by any individuals?—It depended upon the way in which it was conducted.

13686. What then do you complain of?—Parties going and assembling at all hours of the day at beer-shops; there are generally two or three loose fellows to be found in every parish; I may instance my own parish, which is one of the largest in the union; it so happened that the persons employed by Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree were two of the very worst fellows in the parish; they went round and induced persons who were in work to come and attend that meeting; persons who had no more occasion to go and make a statement of destitute circumstances at that meeting than I had; but they went there, and when I asked them what they went there for, they said, "We went to get the beer, and we thought we should have a jollification;" a pint of beer goes a great way in Bedfordshire.

13687. Were those two men employed by Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree?—Yes, they were.

13688. What did they receive for their labour?—They had beer, and I think they must have received some money, or the Shitlington fellows would not have troubled themselves to have whipped over the parish, six or seven miles across.

13689. Do you know that Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree engaged those two men?—Yes, the men themselves told me that Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree employed them.

13690. What were the names of those men?—George Arnold was one of the men; he was in a good place of work, and he lost it through his gross misconduct; and a man of the name of Peck.

13691. Do you know those two men?—Yes, I do.

13692. Have you seen them since Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree were down there?—Messrs. Turner and Crabtree have been down there four or five times; I saw one of the men after Messrs. Turner and Crabtree had taken them to a beer-shop in our parish; I know the very men who were there; this is a list of the parties; many of them do not belong to the parish, do not belong even to the union.

13693. Mr. *Miles.*] Did those two men whose names you have now given, inform you that they had been appointed by Messrs. Turner and Crabtree to inquire into the state of the poor?—Yes, to send to them the men who were out of work in the parish.

13694. And in consequence of that order, they did send men who were out of employ?—Several men who professed to be out of work; and the men met at a beer-house in the parish; I can tell you the name of the house; one of the meetings took place at a house called "The Greyhound," and a subsequent meeting at a house kept by a man of the name of Arnold, a man of very indifferent character.

13695. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know that those two men were engaged for a specific purpose by Messrs. Turner and Crabtree?—They told me so.

13696. What did they say they were employed to do?—To find out all the men who were out of work in the parish; and they were to meet at this beer-house, either "The Greyhound" or Arnold's beer-shop.

13697. Supposing they had been employed for that purpose, was there any impropriety in ascertaining the number of men who were out of work in that parish?—No impropriety in ascertaining the number.

13698. Does that form one of the subjects of this allegation in your petition?—The way in which it was conducted.

13699. How was it conducted?—By assembling those parties at beer-houses, and not satisfying themselves whether many of the parties who made the statements before them were really belonging to the parish or not.

13700. Do you know that they assembled at beer-houses for that purpose?—Yes, I know that they did.

13701. Were you present when they were there?—I asked the keeper of the beer-house what the men came there for, and then the list was handed in to me of the parties that attended; and I was told that they had beer given them, I think,

think, two or three gallons of beer; a man who attended there, in excellent work, said, "I went there to get the beer."

13702. Was there any impropriety in going there to get some beer, supposing that to have been the case?—A meeting of that kind at a beer-house, in a rural district, is likely, before it is all over, to be attended with bad consequences.

13703. But they could not make the Poor Law Bill work otherwise than well, if it was working well at the time that they went?—But their representations, coupled with their being persons of superior rank to themselves, might have some weight in inducing those labouring persons to join parties who were obnoxious to the measure.

13704. Can the working men in the Ampthill Union be opposed to a measure if it be working well for them?—No, certainly not.

13705. Then could any thing that could be done by two individuals coming amongst them make them believe that which was false?—I cannot take upon myself to say what effect it may have upon the labouring classes of society; a very little excites them, and particularly if they have beer given them.

13706. How much did the landlord of this house tell you that they had when they met at his house?—They might have only two or three gallons; but then, if a man begins with a pint, that leads to a quart, and at last the quart makes a man a fool.

13707. Did the landlord of the house tell you what beer was given to those men?—I think he said two gallons.

13708. Did he tell you the number of men that came in to drink this beer?—No, he did not tell me.

13709. Do you know from any other quarter the number of men that were there upon that occasion?—Yes; but when two gallons of beer are given to 15 or 20 men at the commencement, that induces them to have a little more, and then if they do not pay for it, they run up a score there.

13710. Were there 15 or 20 men there upon the occasion?—Yes, I am within bounds when I say 15 or 20.

13711. And you say that there were two gallons of beer given to them?—Yes, two gallons.

13712. Suppose you had gone into the Ampthill Union to inquire, and to get the men together, in order to know what their earnings were and what their condition was, and what relief they received, or any thing else, would you have thought that you were doing wrong in giving 15 or 20 men two gallons of beer, who had come to the place in order to give you the requisite information?—I do not know what I should have done if I had been employed in such a mission; I think it was bad, assembling parties at beer-houses; I think they might have called upon them at their own cottages.

13713. You are aware that it has been stated that the labourers were in full employment in the Ampthill Union; was it not necessary to know whether that was the fact or otherwise?—Yes.

13714. How are they to ascertain whether the men were in employment or not without making the necessary inquiry?—I think it might have been conducted in a different manner.

13715. What is the manner you objected to?—I think that Messrs. Turner and Crabtree assembling those parties at beer-houses and public-houses was bad, and they ought to have called upon the employers.

13716. Do you know whether they have done that or not?—They have not done that in many cases.

13717. Have they called upon many employers to ascertain whether the labourers were in full employment or not?—I do not think they have; if they have, it is only upon employers of very little consequence in the union, taking them generally.

13718. Have you seen Messrs. Turner and Crabtree yourself frequently while they have been down in Ampthill?—I have occasionally seen them when I have been going up to the board of guardians; but I have had no conversation with them, except on a subject not at all connected with the Poor Law.

13719. Have you had conversations with them on any subject whatever?—I had some conversation with Mr. Turner some two or three months back; it had nothing at all to do with the Poor Law.

13720. Mr. *Miles.*] This petition was drawn up in February last, was it not?—Yes.

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13721. Had Messrs. Turner and Crabtree been down in the neighbourhood of Ampthill previously to that time?—Yes, they had.

13722. What had been the demeanour of the poorer classes; and how did they seem to be affected towards the new Poor Law previously to Messrs. Turner and Crabtree coming into the country?—There was a very marked difference in the conduct of the labourers after Messrs. Crabtree and Turner had taken up their residence in the Ampthill Union.

13723. In what way?—The parties seemed to be buoyed up with the idea that those persons had power completely to get all the Poor Law Amendment Act repealed; that they would be entitled to have their wages, when they were not satisfied, made up out of the poor-rates; and that any relief that they thought proper would be awarded to them; the respect and good feeling which had been daily, I may say, increasing between master and servant, has been materially checked since the residence of Mr. Turner and Crabtree in our county; there is a sturdiness, a rudeness on the part of the labourers, which is now, certainly, to be noticed, which was not the case prior to their arrival.

13724. Do you know that this feeling was excited in the minds of the labourers by the residence of Messrs. Turner and Crabtree in the Ampthill Union, from any communication you have had with the labourers themselves?—Yes; and I think I may say that that is the opinion of the guardians who signed that petition.

13725. Did any of the labourers, from whom you collected this information, attend any of these meetings at those beer-houses?—They did.

13726. Can you name any?—I cannot, at this moment, remember the name of any particular person; but I think I should be able in the interval between now and to-morrow.

13727. You speak of two men being bad characters, who were employed by Messrs. Turner and Crabtree to collect evidence for them?—Yes; it might have been a matter of accident Messrs. Turner and Crabtree employing those two persons; I will not say that their object was specifically to employ those two persons, but it so happened that they were persons not of good character.

13728. Taking George Arnold, what was there against his character as a labourer?—He had a very excellent place of work, and he asked for a holiday; it was given him by his master, and he was to come home at a particular time. I think he was horse-keeper at the place where he was, which required him to be home at a certain time, to rack up the horses: he came home exceedingly intoxicated; his master forgave him, and overlooked it. Then subsequently he applied for a second holiday, and he got exceedingly drunk and neglected his horses, and lost his place. He then associated himself with a boy who was one of the very worst fellows in the parish; I have warned him over and over again, for I have a great respect for the family. I know his aunt, and I have said to her, "If your nephew does not leave off associating himself with the person that he is with, he will come to a bad end." And I spoke to the boy himself; but I saw that he treated my advice with no respect, and he went out poaching, and was apprehended and sent to prison. He then gave way to habits of intemperance, and assaulted a young woman. I have sent him to prison two or three times.

13729. What do you know against the other person, Peck?—He was employed by a large farmer of our parish, and who has property in an adjoining parish; and during the harvest, this lad receiving very excellent wages, was setting snares all the time; his master keeping greyhounds, that being his only source of amusement, he being a person not in good health, he is very anxious to preserve the hares upon the place he occupies; and this lad set snares, and caught the hares at the same time that he ought to have been reaping; then he went out and joined a gang of poachers; then he was apprehended for setting snares to catch fowls, and he is now idling about the parish.

13730. By accident it did happen that the two persons who were employed by Messrs. Turner and Crabtree to gain information, and to bring those persons to the beer-house, were persons of very loose character?—Yes, persons that really the farmers were afraid to employ; they have lost their characters.

13731. Mr. *Fielden*.] When was it that Arnold lost his place?—I think he has lost his place four or five months.

13732. Was it before Messrs. Turner and Crabtree came down to Ampthill that he lost his place?—Yes.

13733. Was

13733. Was it the same with Peck?—I do not know exactly when Peck lost his place; I could ascertain it.

13734. Those were bad characters before Messrs. Turner and Crabtree paid their visit to Ampthill?—Yes.

13735. They have not been made so by the visit of Messrs. Turner and Crabtree?—No, I did not say that.

13736. Then, the new Poor Law did not reform those men?—There are some men that will not be reformed, whatever Act is passed.

13737. Their bad character is not attributable to the visit of Messrs. Turner and Crabtree?—No.

FORTY-FIRST REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
12 *June* 1838.

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FORTY-SECOND

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
13 *June* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

13 *June* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Henry Musgrave Musgrave, Esq. - - - - - p. 1
Mr. *Thomas William Overman* - - - - - p. 19
Joshua Ingham, Esq. - - - - - - - p. 25

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 13° *die Junii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Bolling.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Liddell.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Henry Musgrave Musgrave, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

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13738. Mr. *Fielden.*] IN this petition you speak of the improved morals of the working people; how is that exhibited?—They are a great deal more prudent than they used to be; they do not go to the beer-house so often and spend their earnings there, which used to be the case; they take them home to their wives and families.

13739. Are they better satisfied with the new law than they were with the old law?—I think the respectable labourers are.

13740. Is their income larger under the new law than it was under the old law?—Yes, I think it is.

13741. You employ labourers yourself?—Yes.

13742. Can you state any cases of persons in your own employ, whose incomes are larger now than they were before the new law?—There are four or five persons in the list that was put in by Mr. Turner, of Shitlington labourers: George Hare, William Ingram, William Weston, John Cox and Joseph Denton. The earnings of George Hare, employed all the year 1837, at 11*s.* a week when working by the great, and 9*s.* a week when not so at work; his harvest 2*l.*, and board, 2*l.* more; the boy, 2*s.* 6*d.* weekly wages, and 5*s.* a week during the harvest month, and board; another lad, 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, and 5*s.* a week during the harvest, and his board; and the wife and the younger children weekly earn 2*s.* 6*d.* The earnings stated by Mr. Turner in this table, of George Hare and his family during the year were 43*l.* 12*s.*; I make the earnings to be 51*l.* 2*s.*; a difference of 7*l.* 10*s.* during the year. I am not able to state what the earnings of this family were in the year 1834, but I can prove that there is an inaccuracy in the earnings, as given for the year 1837.

13743. Was this man in your employ?—He was not.

13744. The question I put to you was, whether your labourers received greater wages in 1837 than in 1834, and you began to enumerate some cases; were those your own labourers?—Only one of the men labours on our farm, William Weston.

13745. Are you not able to speak to the earnings of any labourers whom you have had in your employ in the last five or six years?—No, I cannot; because the farm is managed by a bailiff, and I have so many occupations to attend to, that I really cannot speak to that.

13746. Then you are not able to give the Committee any information as to the sum received by your own labourers in 1834?—No, I would rather not attempt to do so.

13747. How, then, can you state to the Committee, with any sort of propriety, that their incomes have increased since the passing of the new law?—From what I have heard in the course of conversation at different meetings with practical persons in the county, and from what has transpired at the board.

13748. Would any conversation be so satisfactory to you as an examination of your own payments in wages at the different periods alluded to?—I have no reason to doubt the statements that have been made at the different places where I have conversed with agriculturists upon the subject of the improved condition of the labourers.

13749. An improved condition implies an improved means; are you prepared

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to prove, before this Committee, the cases of any labourers whose means have improved in your own knowledge in the parish in which you reside?—Yes, I am.

13750. Give an instance?—There was a man in our parish who was always upon the poor-book; he said he could get no employment; he came regularly, the greater part of the year, for relief.

13751. Will you give the name of the man?—James Spring; he was always applying to the overseers for relief; but when the Poor Law came into operation, he found, after a time, as we gradually introduced the spirit of the Act into our union, not withdrawing, in the first instance entirely, out-door relief till such time as we had the workhouse to offer to parties, which prepared them for the change which was about to take place; and when James Spring found that the only relief that would be afforded him was the workhouse, he left the parish to look out for work; and I think he has been absent upwards of two years, and never applied to us for any relief.

13752. Do you know where he is now?—No, I have not the slightest idea.

13753. Then he left the parish altogether?—Yes, leaving his wife behind.

13754. You think that is a proof of an improvement in the condition of that man?—I have asked his wife about him, and she has told me that he is in very good employment; that she hears occasionally from him; that he is in very good work; I do not know where he is; that man was constantly upon the parish, under the old law.

13755. Mr. *Miles*.] Notwithstanding his absence, does he support his wife and family?—He has no child.

13756. Does he support his wife?—His wife has never applied for any relief.

13757. Mr. *Fielden*.] How many men do you employ upon your farm?—I stated the other day, in evidence, how many men there were; we had 57 men the other day at work; we generally employ about 18 or 20 men and 8 or 10 boys, upon 400 acres.

13758. Is that a greater or less number of men than you employed in 1834 or 1833?—The farm was in the hands of tenants in those years; we did not farm it ourselves.

13759. Have you only commenced the occupation of it yourself since the new law was passed?—Yes; I can mention another case of a person who was constantly upon the parish; Charles Flemings, a married man, a person of very, very bad character; he was constantly upon the poor-books, and never could get any work, and was always to be found at the public-house; he was continually annoying me before the Act passed, by coming down to me and wishing me to compel the overseer to afford him relief; when the Ampthill Union was formed he came down and said he could get no work; I said, "Well, now, I will try and see whether you will work; I have got some employment for you, in the adjoining county, at 14 *s*. a week, and if you behave yourself properly your wages will be increased every year;" he said, "Well, sir, I have nothing to go down in; I do not know what I shall do; I have not a particle of furniture;" and he has a wife and, I think, five children; and that very marriage was entered into for the purpose, as he termed it, of spiting the parish; it was before the Poor Law came into operation; he went and married improvidently, and brought his wife home; "Now," he said, "I have married and you must support myself and my wife;" and a great expense they were, for a series of years, to the parish: but to return to what I was stating about him; I offered him this employment, and he said, "I do not know what to do, I have no shoes;" and he shuffled a great deal about leaving the parish; I said, "If that is the difficulty I will soon supply you;" and I ordered my servant to go up and bring him a pair of boots, and I started him: the very first place that this man went to was the public-house; I had given him a letter, directed to the person who was to employ him; he got very tipsy at this beer-house, and dropped the letter; the letter was brought to me, and a few days after I sent for the man to ascertain why he had not gone down to this place; "O," he said, "I do not know, sir; I do not like much leaving the parish; it is a long way to go; I do not see why I could not go on here as I used to do:" "No," I said, "you take this letter; if you do not take this letter down to the work that I have now offered you, you will be sent to the treadmill;" the man, finding then that he could have no relief from the parish, left it, and he has been absent ever since, and he has taken his wife and children with him; he is now at Northampton.

13760. This man had a family of five children, and no wife at the first period you spoke of?—That was some few years before this Poor Law Act passed; he

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was constantly upon the parish; he was told he was an idle and drunken fellow, and he said, "O, if you do not give me some relief I will spite you;" those were the words he used, and he then absented himself for some time, and came back and said, "I have a wife, and you must now support us both."

13761. Mr. *Fielden.*] This man had five children before the Poor Law Act passed?—Yes.

13762. Did he neglect to attend to his family?—Yes.

13763. After he had married this woman and had those five children, he made his demand upon the parish for relief?—He did, and before his marriage, for himself alone.

13764. Had not the parish the same power to refuse that man relief if he were undeserving of it as they have now?—No.

13765. Why not?—Because he could apply to the magistrates; and in many cases the magistrates, I am sorry to say, too frequently listened to the statement of the pauper applicant, and made an order, without hearing what the overseer had to state respecting the circumstances of the party seeking relief.

13766. Do you know whether in this case which you are speaking of, an order from a magistrate was given to the overseer for the relief of this man?—So many years have expired that I cannot say; he was a sort of person that would give the overseer the greatest trouble by going to the most distant magistrate in the county.

13767. Do you know whether, after he married this woman and had five children, he went to a magistrate, and the magistrate gave him an order for relief?—I cannot take upon myself to say; I think it not improbable.

13768. You will not state that such was the fact?—No, I will not tax my memory with that.

13769. Upon making the application to the magistrate, and on its being shown that he was a person neglecting his family, could he not have been committed as a person neglecting his family?—Yes, he could.

13770. And would not that have been as efficacious as the workhouse in throwing the man upon his own resources, or subjecting him to a prison?—I do not think it would; I think that overseers in some cases are supposed to lean to the claim of the applicant for relief.

13771. Did the overseers wish to relieve the poor when there was no necessity for doing so?—Sometimes the overseer was a shopkeeper, and had an object in view, and besides, many an overseer received a salary.

13772. Had not the overseer to be answerable to the parish for the expenditure of the parish money?—Yes; but in what way were the accounts kept by the overseers under the old system?

13773. Had not the rate-payers a control over the overseer?—Not as it is now, from the manner in which the accounts are now inspected by the auditor.

13774. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Was it not one of the defects of the old system that the relief was so indiscriminately given, and the impression so strong, that the magistrates would order the relief, if the relief were not given by the overseer, that practically it was given in all cases?—It was.

13775. Mr. *Scrope.*] In addition to the possible leaning that there might be in the mind of the magistrate and of the overseer in favour of the pauper applicant, they not being the parties who paid the money, but dealing with other people's money, was there not a difficulty from a want of some test by which it could be ascertained whether the story of the applicant was a correct one or not, and whether he was really idle and unwilling to work or not?—Yes.

13776. And is not that adequate test, which was wanted under the old system, supplied under the new?—I think so.

13777. *Chairman.*] Was it not the practice of the overseers under the old parochial system to give relief to persons, without very much inquiring into their necessities?—Almost always.

13778. Was it not the practice for them to give relief without instituting any inquiry into the condition of the pauper, except as to the number of their children?—Yes.

13779. Was not relief given by a particular scale, regulated according to the number of the children?—I do not think that the Speenhamland Act of Parliament, as it is called, was adopted by us; we had no scale.

13780. Were you not in the habit of giving the relief according to the number of children?—Yes.

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13781. What was the relief given?—I think, taking into consideration how many children there were under ten, 1 *s.* 6 *d.* or 2 *s.* a head was given.

13782. Eighteen-pence or 2 *s.* was given for every child above a certain number?—Yes; to make up, with what the father stated he earned, about 2 *s.* a head, all round.

13783. Does not that amount to something approaching to a scale?—Yes.

13784. Was not that given without any reference to the necessities of the individual?—Frequently.

13785. Was it not given generally without an examination into each particular case?—Generally so.

13786. Was it given without reference to the parties being at work or not?—Very little inquiry was instituted into the necessity for relief.

13787. Was there any difficulty in the applicant obtaining relief?—Not the least.

13788. Did he receive it upon the condition that he worked?—No.

13789. Did he receive it upon the condition of his being a well-conducted man?—Character was hardly ever taken into consideration.

13790. Therefore the industry or the character of the individual did not form any consideration in the minds of the persons who relieved him?—No.

13791. Was there any inducement offered to a man to conduct himself well?—Quite the contrary.

13792. Had it not the effect rather of inducing them to be indifferent about their work and conduct generally?—I think so.

13793. Was not the system attended with this result, that the labourers were in the habit of being collected in great numbers in the gravel-pits and on the roads, passing away their time in doing nothing?—Yes, and I can give a case in point.

13794. Was not such a practice attended with a very lavish and profuse expenditure of parish money, and also with idleness and disorder among the poor?—Yes.

13795. Do you see that that evil is now corrected?—I see nothing like it in my own parish, which is a very large one.

13796. Do you observe generally that the conduct and demeanour and the habits of the poor are improved?—I do indeed.

13797. Do you attribute that improvement mainly to this circumstance, that there does not now exist the same facility of getting relief without any discrimination of character and industry that there was before?—Yes.

13798. Mr. *Fielden.*] You are a magistrate for the district in which the Ampthill Union is situated?—I am.

13799. Were you in the practice of giving orders to the labourers to receive relief from the overseers?—No, I never acted in that manner myself.

13800. Do you know any magistrate who was in the habit of acting in that way which you have described?—Perhaps it would place me in an invidious situation to particularize persons.

13801. Do you mean to say that you do know any who did do so, without mentioning the names?—Yes, I do.

13802. More than one?—Yes.

13803. Who gave indiscriminate orders, in the way you have stated, to the overseers to grant relief?—That was, I am sorry to state, too frequently the practice.

13804. Did you take any notice of the working of the Poor Law before the Act was passed in your own parish?—Yes, I did, a great deal.

13805. What did you observe as to the conduct of the poor when work was provided for them; did they refuse to work?—It was any thing but work; the parish gravel-pit; it was merely an assemblage of men; no sooner had the overseer, who pointed out the place in which they were to work, turned his back, than all sorts of mischief were performed.

13806. Did they leave work on the farms to go to the gravel-pit; did any of your labourers do that?—I do not know that any of our labourers did; we have very respectable men that work upon the farm that we occupy; but some might do so, if they thought they should make a better bargain by leaving their masters, and getting parish pay for doing nothing.

13807. You do not know, then, of your own knowledge, that any one did so?—Yes, many.

13808. Can you mention any that left the work that they were employed on, on the farms, to go and work at the gravel-pits?—Many of the persons who met Mr. Turner and Mr. Crabtree were in the habit of doing those things; I could mention some of the names, if you request it.

13809. Will you mention the names of those who you know left the work on the farms to go to the gravel-pit?—William Jenkins and Samuel Stapleton were in the habit of doing those things.

13810. By whom were they employed?—I cannot recollect at this moment, it is so long ago; they were very loose characters; I recollect them applying, week after week, to the overseers.

13811. Did they apply to the overseers when they had work that they might be employed on on a farm?—They used to go the round, as it was called in the parish, go in a body of eight or ten; sometimes a great many would go to a farmer for work, and that farmer would take two or three for a day or two, and then the remainder of the time they would go to the overseer; they would work for a day or two upon the farm, and then go to the overseer, and be sent by him to the gravel-pit; that is what I mean by leaving the work.

13812. Did they leave the employer and go to the gravel-pit, when they might have remained working upon the wages that the employer was giving them upon the farm?—I cannot take upon myself to say that.

13813. Have you not said so in a former part of your evidence?—The cases I mentioned of William Jenkins and Samuel Stapleton, are men that would go their rounds and be employed for a day or two, and when the farmers told them they had nothing for them to do, they would go to the overseer, and be sent to the gravel-pits.

13814. If I understand you rightly, when the farmer would give them no more work, they then went to the overseer, who put them upon the gravel-pit?—Yes.

13815. Was it the fault of the labourers that they left the farm, and went to the gravel-pit?—No, the fault of the old law.

13816. How do you make that out?—The overseers being bound to find work or relieve parties; that was the old Poor Law.

13817. Was not that a law that ought to be held in veneration?—I think the labourer ought, to a certain extent, to be thrown upon his own resources; I am bound to prevent a man starving, but I think he has no right to dictate to me in what way he shall be relieved; whether I shall give him board and lodging in the workhouse or out-door relief.

13818. Was there any dictation on the part of the labourer, when his master, who was a farmer, had thrown him out of employment, and he went to the overseer to ask for relief?—No; but he had the power of compelling the overseer to give him relief under the provisions of the Act which was in force.

13819. How had he that power?—By applying to the magistrate, if the overseer did not do it of his own accord.

13820. Then the magistrate only carried out the law; it was not the fault of the labourer?—It was the fault of the law.

13821. Mr. *Scrope.*] You mean that the law gave too much encouragement to improvidence and idleness on the part of the labourer?—Yes.

13822. Mr. *Fielden.*] What are the working men to do in the cases which you have represented, when they have no work; when the farmers who promise to employ them, will only employ them in partial times, what can they do but go to the overseer, in order to obtain the means of living?—Many labourers cared but very little about work prior to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act; they knew very well that whether they worked or not they could have relief at the close of the week.

13823. Will you name any labourers who left work upon a farm, and went to the gravel-pit?—I never thought of making a note of that.

13824. You have not a recollection of a man who did that, who left a farm where he might have continued to be employed, and threw himself upon the parish?—I cannot mention any name, but I think it not improbable.

13825. *Chairman.*] Do you believe that to have been a general practice?—I think that they did it.

13826. Mr. *Fielden.*] How can you state that to be a general practice if you have not one single instance of it?—I entertain that opinion from what is generally stated in the county; what I have heard at different meetings.

13827. Do you know, of your own knowledge, any one individual who left his work at a farm in order that he might be employed by the overseer in the gravel-pit?—

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pit?—At this present moment I cannot particularize any person; but I think I might do so if I were to set about the inquiry.

13828. *Chairman.*] Do you know Mr. Pearse, the rector of Westoning?—Very well.

13829. Is he a person who has been long the clergyman of that parish?—Yes, he has.

13830. Is he a respectable and humane man?—Highly so.

13831. Should you think that any thing he said with regard to the state of the labourers in his parish might be relied on?—Quite so.

13832. If, therefore, Mr. Pearse has said, speaking of the year 1833, and of the then practice among the labourers in the parish of Westoning, that "too many of the labourers do not take much pains to give satisfaction to their employers, and they cause themselves to be discharged and thrown upon the parish," should you think that, resting upon the authority of Mr. Pearse, was a statement that might be received by the Committee?—You may receive it as truth with the greatest safety.

13833. Mr. *Scrope.*] And that coincides with your own recollection upon the subject?—It does.

13834. Mr. *Fielden.*] If there was one labourer who practised this, that would be one too many, would it not?—Yes.

13835. Then what has the passage just now to do with the question which you have just now answered, that states that there were too many labourers who practised this misconduct; if there was one in the parish who did that, that would be too many, would it not?—It is not confined to one, more likely one hundred.

13836. But you yourself do not know those labourers?—Not at this moment.

13837. But you think that Mr. Pearse did know at the moment that he wrote that?—Yes; or else he would not have allowed it to be published.

13838. Are you prepared to answer what Mr. Pearse's opinions were upon that subject?—No; how can I tell what his opinions were.

13839. Have you not just now confirmed his statement as read by the Chairman?—I wish the Committee to understand that I do not doubt one line of what Mr. Pearse has written.

13840. Have you any reason to know that what Mr. Pearse has stated is true?—I have no reason to doubt that; I do not know the state of Westoning parish except from the reports current in the neighbourhood.

13841. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you believe it to be true?—Yes; for I have a book of the various paupers that came to me as a magistrate from the various parishes for relief; I took down the names, and I found an amazing number of persons had come from Westoning parish for relief.

13842. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you give them relief?—I never gave relief without hearing what the overseers had to state; I always wrote a letter to the overseers, and heard both sides of the case.

13843. Then it was not your practice to give encouragement to that abusive system that you spoke of?—As far as regarded myself it was not.

13844. Do you know that it was the custom in the Westoning parish to give relief in the manner you have described?—Some magistrates in the county would make orders upon the overseers of the parish to relieve paupers.

13845. Mr. *Scrope.*] You have been pressed to particularize instances of labourers who were in the habit of throwing themselves upon the parish, and not taking sufficient pains to maintain themselves; you did mention the cases of two men, whose names you gave, who were characters of that description; the observations you have made as to it being general throughout the county of Bedford apply to labourers of that class?—Yes.

13846. Those two individuals having had that character previously to the passing of the law, are, you believe, now reformed morally, and in full employment?—Yes, I believe they are; I have written in fact to the employer of Charles Flemings, and I understand that he is in very good employment, and conducts himself with propriety now; and he was a most profligate person prior to the passing of the new law.

13847. Mr. *Fielden.*] You speak in this petition of the aged and infirm being better attended to than they were under the old law; do you know that to be the case?—Yes, I do; I am able to prove that in many many cases their condition is very much improved, particularly in the parish of Cranfield.

13848. Have you no infirm and aged in the parish of Shitlington that are better taken care of now than they were before the new law?—Yes, I think there

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are some very aged persons in Shitlington, but the relieving-officer can give you the particulars.

13849. You are not prepared to speak to that?—No; the list has been put in; in the parish of Cranfield, of 21 cases 17 are increased.

13850. The same account is there given as is given in the returns that have been sent up from the Ampthill Union?—It is the same.

13851. The returns show what the increase has been, and what the decrease has been?—Yes.

13852. The prayer of this petition is, "that in the event of the charges against the Poor Law Amendment Act being proved to be false, and to have been advanced with culpable heedlessness or malice, that proper steps may be taken for the condemnation of those who by such means disturb the minds of the uninformed, and injure the labouring classes by calling them from their peaceful avocations, to assemble in mobs for the purpose of intimidating the inhabitants of towns situated in rural districts, and which, if persisted in, must tend to the injury of themselves and families;" do you know of any such circumstances having taken place?—A very large mob was collected at Ampthill.

13853. When?—At the beginning of this year.

13854. Did that mob commit any violence?—From what I was informed, they were quite ripe for it.

13855. But did they commit any violence?—Several strong expressions were used by different persons constituting the assemblage, which very much alarmed the inhabitants.

13856. Mr. *Lister.*] Which put them in bodily fear?—Yes; I was applied to, in fact, as a magistrate; they were exceedingly alarmed, bearing in mind the very serious disturbance that took place upon the introduction of the Poor Law Amendment Act into the Ampthill Union in the year 1835, the very serious riots that occurred, with nearly loss of life, in the parish of Ampthill, when a body of persons were congregated of between 200 and 300 persons, parading about the town, and several of them using strong expressions, that Ampthill would be turned upside down.

13857. Mr. *Fielden.*] When was that, in 1835?—Yes, the 15th of May, I think it was.

13858. Was that before the Poor Law Amendment Act came into operation?—No, the Poor Law Act had passed.

13859. Had it then been put into operation in the Ampthill Union?—Yes, it had.

13860. Was there any one there to inflame their minds, and to stir them up to insubordination?—No, I am not aware that there was.

13861. Did the labourers themselves do this in 1835?—Yes.

13862. Is that what you allude to in this petition?—Coupled with what took place in the early part of this year in Ampthill.

13863. What was that which took place in the early part of this year?—There was a very large mob collected together in Ampthill.

13864. Did you see them?—No, I did not see them; I was not at Ampthill; but I saw several persons going there, not only from the county of Bedford, but from the adjoining county, and not persons belonging to the Ampthill Union, but to different unions in the county.

13865. Did you make any inquiry of them what they were going for?—No, they were very reserved; they would make no communication.

13866. Did you ask them?—Yes, I did.

13867. Of whom did you ask?—I was going into the county of Hertford that very morning, and I met several men belonging to the adjoining parish in which I live, and I asked them where they were going, and they said, "I should hear about it," or they made some rude remark, "That is no business of yours;" I met the relieving-officer belonging to the union, in that part of Hertfordshire where I was going, and he said, "There seems, sir, to be something going on in Barton and the adjoining parishes; a number of persons all going off to Ampthill."

13868. Is it to the assembly on that day that you refer in this petition, or to the assembly in 1835?—To a certain extent; it applies throughout England to different mobs that are collected by parties who are not favourable to the Poor Law Amendment Act, and who collect together immense bodies of the labouring class of society.

13869. Will you state the mischief that was done by the assembling of the labourers on that occasion?—I cannot in particular state that any mischief took

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place at the meeting the other day, because I think it was checked by several highly respectable persons going among them and showing themselves; but from what I was given to understand, if a boy had ventured to hold up his hand or to throw a stone, there is no saying what would have been the consequences; I was so informed by most respectable inhabitants of the town.

13870. But you were not there to witness the proceedings of that assembly?— No.

13871. What you now state you received from others; you are not speaking to facts from your own knowledge?—No, what was represented to me by the inhabitants of the town.

13872. State what the inhabitants said as to the mischief that was done by the people assembling on that day?—That a very large body of labourers assembled themselves in the market-place; that they walked up to the workhouse; that they demanded admittance; that they were refused; they then came back again and used violent language, and were going about there in very large bodies, some with sticks.

13873. That was in January 1838?—Yes.

13874. Do you remember what sort of a day it was as to the weather?—Yes; I think it was a very cold day; the frost was very severe.

13875. Was there a fall of snow on the ground at the time?—I cannot, at this moment, say.

13876. Where did they go to to ask for admittance?—To the workhouse, part of them.

13877. How many of them went to the workhouse and demanded admittance?—I really cannot say, I was not present; I was applied to as a magistrate by respectable inhabitants, who stated that they were alarmed; that they found that the constables had no power; and, bearing in mind what had taken place in 1835, that the partial destruction of a large house took place, and nearly loss of life, I thought it my duty to render some assistance to the parish, finding the rural police such an inefficient body.

13878. What was the assistance you rendered upon that occasion?—I wrote to the Secretary of State.

13879. Do you remember the statement you made?—No, I cannot at this moment; Lord John Russell has the whole of the particulars; I stated to his lordship generally, that I had been applied to by most respectable inhabitants; that the vice-chairman of the union had been present; that he thought it necessary to leave his house and give up his time; that I had been applied to by a clergyman resident in the parish and respectable inhabitants, stating, that they feared that unless the mob were dispersed serious consequences would ensue; and that the rural force was too much locally interested to render any effective service, as unfortunately proved to be the case in 1835; and that I thought, as a magistrate, it was my duty to preserve the peace, and that the presence of a policeman would have a great effect; and accordingly two policemen were sent down.

13880. Are you aware that Mr. Adey had stated that there was not a labouring man of good character out of employment in Bedfordshire?—No, I never heard that statement of Mr. Adey's.

13881. Do you know that that has been given in evidence before this Committee?—Yes, I have heard it since I have attended this Committee.

13882. Do you know that the parties whom you speak of, Turner and Crabtree, being in Bedfordshire, did advise the men who were out of employment to show themselves, in order that it might be known to farmers, and to those who said that they were in employment, that they were out of work?—I do not know what Mr. Turner or Mr. Crabtree did upon that occasion; from what I have endeavoured to collect from the labourers, it appears that they were all ordered to come there by agents that were sent by Turner and Crabtree.

13883. Who were the agents employed?—A man told me that he was to have a pot of beer for going over from Shitlington to Clophill to a blacksmith's, to tell the fellows there to go to Ampthill.

13884. Who was the man that told you that?—I forget his name at this moment; I was told it in the parish.

13885. Did this assemblage of people do any thing that could, with any propriety, be construed into intimidation of the inhabitants of Ampthill?—From what

what I understood, it was very likely, and it did intimidate several of the inhabitants.

13886. Can you mention any that were intimidated?—I was applied to by a clergyman resident in the parish.

13887. Who is that clergyman?—The Reverend Mr. Whitehurst, who has been examined by this Committee; he is not the clergyman of the parish, but residing in it.

13888. *Chairman.*] State what he said to you?—I happened to be dining at a neighbour's in the country, where Mr. Whitehurst came, and he said, "It is very fortunate I have fallen in with you, for we have had a very serious assemblage at Ampthill this morning, and I am afraid their intention is not of the best kind; we have had great excitement there all the morning, and we hardly knew what to do; we were coming over to you, as a magistrate, and they are not dispersed now, and if the mob gets larger during the evening, there is no knowing what may occur; as to the parish constables, there is no trusting them; and it is about the Poor Law, and they say they will turn Ampthill upside down, and have blood or money before they get back;" and he said, "I think it is your duty to represent those circumstances."

13889. Did you act upon that representation of Mr. Whitehurst?—I did.

13890. Did you receive any other representation from any other party with reference to this mob at Ampthill?—Mr. Overman told me, who had been there, what had occurred.

13891. When did you see Mr. Overman?—The same day.

13892. What did he say to you?—He completely confirmed what Mr. Whitehurst had said.

13893. In consequence of the representations made to you by Mr. Whitehurst and Mr. Overman respecting the mob, as being formidable to the peace of Ampthill, did you write to the Secretary of State?—Yes, I did.

13894. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did Mr. Whitehurst tell you that the labourers said they would have either blood or money?—I am not certain whether I heard that; I think I heard it in the magistrates' room; there were a great many persons present in the room, who were giving an account of what had happened; that was the language used in 1835 that I heard myself; a man came up to me and tried to seize me by the throat, using that language.

13895. Mr. *Liddell.*] Was the collection of people more numerous in 1835 than in 1838?—In 1835 I should think there were between 300 and 400 persons.

13896. Was there an improved feeling in 1838 evinced towards the new law, from what was evinced by those persons in 1835?—I was not present upon the latter occasion, so that I cannot state.

13897. Mr. *Fielden.*] In consequence of the representation you made to the Home Department, police were sent down?—I think, in the first instance, I wrote to the Poor Law Commissioners.

13898. What answer did you receive from the Poor Law Commissioners?—I wrote to the Central Board, and then the Poor Law Commissioners laid my letter before the Secretary of State; I think that was the manner in which it was arranged.

13899. And policemen were sent down to Ampthill, in consequence?—Yes.

13900. Do you know what the expense of those policemen was?—I think about 8*l.* or 10*l.*; 5*s.* a day, I believe, and we paid their travelling expenses.

13901. How long did they remain there?—A week, I think.

13902. Was there any assemblage of people when the police arrived in the town of Ampthill?—No; that put a stop entirely to any meeting taking place.

13903. What time elapsed between the time of writing your letter and the policemen arriving in Ampthill?—I think the police came in the course of two days.

13904. How long did those people remain assembled at Ampthill?—I think the greater part of the day, for a farmer told me that a great number came home in the evening shouting out, and making a very great noise as they passed his premises.

13905. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you believe, from the information that you received, that many attended that meeting who were in full and regular occupation?—I believe so; I believe many went for the sake of seeing what took place; I know

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that many attended who had nothing to do with any union in Bedfordshire; several belonged to Hitchen, in Hertfordshire.

13906. Mr. *Fielden.*] But before the police arrived, those labourers had gone to their homes, and all was quiet, was it not?—Yes.

13907. Did the inhabitants know that the police had been sent for at all?—I am sure I cannot say.

13908. Have they ever complained of the expense incurred by sending for the police?—No; they have no right to complain, it is not paid by the inhabitants.

13909. By whom is it paid?—By the county.

13910. The inhabitants have to bear their share?—Yes; but it would be so trivial, that it would not be a farthing; 10*l.* divided among the inhabitants of our county.

13911. Do you know whether it is the general opinion of the inhabitants of Ampthill that there was no necessity whatever for sending for the police?—I cannot say what their opinions may be.

13912. *Chairman.*] You do not reside in Ampthill?—No, I do not.

13913. Mr. *Liddell.*] But you, as a magistrate, thought fit to send for the police upon your own responsibility?—I am prepared to take that responsibility upon myself.

13914. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does that show an improved state of moral feeling as stated in your petition?—That is to be attributed to Messrs. Crabtree and Turner; that meeting would never have taken place but for their presence.

13915. Do you think they can set all parties by their ears in the Ampthill Union?—Yes, I think they can.

13916. And at the same time the condition of the labourers is improved, and their morals are improved?—The labouring class is soon excited; they may offer opposition to any Act of Parliament if parties lead them on.

13917. Do not the people judge as to the law, from its operation upon their wages and incomes, more than they judge of the principle of the law?—I do not think that there is any law that would give the applicants for relief satisfaction.

13918. Do you think the labouring people like the workhouse?—I know some do.

13919. Who are they?—I can mention parties who would ten times rather be in the workhouse than living with their relations and having out-door relief; I can mention many cases where they have much greater allowance in the workhouse than in their own houses, and much kinder treatment.

13920. If that were the case, would not the great bulk of the labourers make application to go to the workhouse?—I do not know that there are so many persons that have occasion to apply for relief.

13921. You said the people demanded admission into the workhouse on the day of this riot?—Yes, I did; that was what I heard from some parties.

13922. If there is so much better treatment in the workhouse than they have in their own houses, was it a matter of surprise that they should demand admittance into the workhouse?—No, but I may have been deceived in that, as there were so many persons present in the room at the time; but those who did go there went for the sake of making a disturbance—lads and boys; if they had been parties really wanting relief they would have attended at the board of guardians and have had their cases properly inquired into.

13923. If their intention had been to create a disturbance would they have left the place as quietly and peaceably as they did?—I do not think, from the information I received, that they would have left the place quietly; but from the presence of several respectable inhabitants of the county; several respectable persons went there and showed themselves.

13924. Did they converse with the labourers who met there that day?—That I cannot speak to.

13925. You think the presence of respectable persons amongst them would induce the labourers to return quietly home?—It would have great weight with several of the labouring classes, when they saw persons who knew them and perhaps of some standing in the county going amongst them.

13926. If that was the case, what necessity was there for sending for the London police?—There was no knowing where this assemblage would end; from the representation which was made to me at a late hour in the evening, I thought it expedient to send for the police.

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13927. At what time in the evening was it that this representation was made to you?—I think about half-past seven o'clock.

13928. Do you know whether the men had not left Ampthill and returned to their homes before seven o'clock in the evening?—No, I do not think they had.

13929. Do you know that they were in Ampthill assembling in the way you have described at seven o'clock in the evening?—Yes, that was represented to me.

13930. Was an oath taken before you by any parties, that the peace of the town of Ampthill was likely to be disturbed?—No; because in the first instance I wrote a letter to the central board, after I had seen Mr. Whitehurst.

13931. Do you know the day following that there was no assemblage of people in Ampthill?—I was there on that day; there were several persons then at Ampthill lounging about the town.

13932. How many were collected in the town the second day lounging about?—I did not count them.

13933. Cannot you guess what the numbers were?—I cannot, for I went immediately into the magistrates' chamber, and was occupied the whole morning.

13934. If you found them all quiet on the second day, would it not have been wise on your part to withdraw the representation you sent up to London in order to obtain force?—No, I think not.

13935. You thought it was desirable to have the police in Ampthill?—Yes; I thought it would check any such meeting taking place again.

13936. Do you think the presence of the police was of any use whatever?—Yes.

13937. In what way?—In going into different parishes in the neighbourhood of Ampthill, and letting the labouring class and the idle know that there was somebody that would act efficiently in case of their misconducting themselves.

13938. Did the police go to the labourers' houses?—They went into two or three of the parishes.

13939. What did they do when they went there?—I do not know what they did.

13940. How do you know that they did any good in the Ampthill Union?—It has great effect in the rural districts, two or three of the London police showing themselves; it intimidates them.

13941. *Chairman.*] Were these the facts of the case, that you made a representation to the Secretary of State that in your opinion the presence of the police might be useful in Ampthill, in consequence of a mob having collected?—Yes.

13492. Though you went to Ampthill on the next day, and saw only a few people straggling about the town, did you think that this rioting might be resumed?—I thought so; and the magistrates of the division met together, and their opinion was taken on the subject, whether it would be expedient to let the police remain there, and it was the unanimous opinion of the magistrates present that it would be prudent to let them remain.

13943. Then the police remained not only in consequence of it being your opinion that the presence of the police was desirable, but of its being the opinion of the bench of magistrates?—Yes.

13944. Upon what were those opinions formed?—Upon the statements made to us by the persons in the room.

13945. Mr. *Fielden.*] Upon what occasion was that?—Those statements were made to us on the Thursday; the assemblage took place on the Wednesday; on the Thursday I went at an early hour over there to meet my brother magistrates, and a great number of persons came before me and related the character of the parties who attended the mob; many of them were persons of very bad character, many of them strangers to the place, and some of them convicted felons.

13946. *Chairman.*] And in consequence of that, the magistrates were of opinion that the protection of the police should be afforded to the town of Ampthill?—Yes, for the peace of the county.

13947. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was the bench of magistrates summoned for the purpose of taking this into consideration?—The magistrates met on Thursday.

13948. At what time did they meet?—About 11 o'clock, or half-past 10.

13949. At half-past 10 on the Thursday this conversation took place, as to the propriety of sending for the London police?—No, as to the propriety of their continuing in Ampthill; I represented to the magistrates what I had done, and on the Thursday, very early in the morning, I received an express, stating, that two

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of the London police would come down, and put themselves under my directions.

13950. Did the London police come down to you?—They came to my father's house.

13951. Did you see them?—I did in the course of the day.

13952. Were they sent down with their uniform on, or in plain clothes?—I was not at home when they came to my father's house; I had gone to Ampthill; I think they came down in plain clothes.

13953. *Chairman.*] You saw them; how were they dressed?—I think they had great coats on, so that I cannot say.

13954. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know whether they had been in the Ampthill Union long before it was known that there were London police there?—I am quite sure that it was known in a few minutes in all the town; the least thing that is done is soon known in a country town.

13955. You are quite certain that it was known in a few minutes by the inhabitants generally of Ampthill?—Yes.

13956. What gave rise to the riot in 1835?—Many of the labourers having been persuaded that if they would collect together in the place where the old Ampthill workhouse was, and claim out-door relief, they would have the power of gaining what they sought; I think there were about 16 or 17 guardians in the board-room in the workhouse, and an assemblage outside of about 300 or 400; and a person threw a pebble through the window; the pitching was taken up and 150 squares of glass demolished; and to save ourselves we were obliged to use the chairs as shields; several of us were severely injured, and, in fact, there was a most desperate riot; the Riot Act was read; parties remained beyond the hour; they were armed with loaded bludgeons, and it was a most fortunate circumstance that serious consequences did not ensue; it was a most alarming riot; it continued the whole of the day; the workhouse was nearly destroyed.

13957. This was upon the introduction of the new Poor Law?—Soon after parties had been deluded by several persons who were opposed to the measure; I can mention a case that occurred to a brother magistrate, since deceased; an immense assembly came to his house, about 150 persons, and one man came up to the magistrate, and said, "Sir, I insist upon seeing you, and proving that this new law is contrary to the Word of God, and contrary to Act of Parliament;" and then he said, "Sir, can you read this book? this is the Bible." The magistrate took it from him, and said, "Yes;" and he read this passage, it was the 3d verse in the 8th chapter of Deuteronomy, "Man liveth not by bread alone;" and he left out the remainder of the passage.

13958. Was that a clergyman?—Yes, the Reverend Thomas Barber, one of the magistrates, and the clergyman of Houghton Conquest; the man I have mentioned came forward as the leader of this mob of 120 or 130 persons; and those are the sort of persons that have been deluded; and such men attended this meeting in Ampthill in 1835, when a very serious riot took place.

13959. Were there any lives lost upon that occasion?—Fortunately there were not; it was very near it.

13960. Were the military called out?—Yes; and we had occasion to have the London police, for the special constables that were sworn in were quite useless, and ever will be.

13961. The people, then, were not satisfied with the introduction of the law?—No, the general cry was, "Blood or money."

13962. And in the present year you state that the people can still be excited on the subject of this new Poor Law?—Yes, I think it is easy to excite people in any part of England.

13963. If the condition of the labourers has improved between 1835 and 1838 should not that feeling of dislike to the new Poor Law have abated?—Yes, but who were the parties that attended at Ampthill? I think I might state that the greater part of the persons who attended there were of very indifferent character.

13964. Were they men that were out of employ; are you aware whether they were or not?—I am told that many that were there were in employment; that they went there for what is generally termed a lark, or any disturbance; in fact they would have done any thing; I know that many of those that were there were some of the worst fellows in the county.

13965. You did not see them yourself?—No, but I can mention several who were there who were very bad fellows.

13966. In this petition, to whom do you allude when you pray that punishment may be passed on certain parties; is it the clergyman who took part in the riot in 1835, or somebody that has been doing the same thing since?—It was not the clergyman who took part in the riot; it was a clergyman that the mob went to; and one man produced an old copy of Burn's Justice, and quoted a part of some repealed Act, and also the Bible, as the Word of God.

13967. *Chairman.*] You made no statement that the clergyman had excited them?—No; they came to the clergyman's house.

13968. Mr. *Fielden.*] The man that produced that excitement is since dead?—No, the clergyman is since dead.

13969. From the returns from the Ampthill Union it appears that relief was discontinued in the 12th week of the third quarter in 1835–6, to every person on the parish books; do you know whether that had any influence in instigating the riot in 1835?—The relief was not withdrawn at once after the formation of the union; it was by degrees that the cases were inquired into, and parties prepared for a diminution, or for, perhaps, in some cases, a cessation altogether from relief; we did not put them upon the high pressure at once.

13970. You introduced it by degrees, so as to induce the poor, who had been receiving relief, to submit to it more quietly?—That they might be prepared; that they might be more provident and more industrious.

13971. Will you take that return into your hand, and state to how many relief was discontinued in the 12th week of the parochial year of 1835?—Thirteen out of 35.

13972. How many on the 11th week?—I really have never seen this table, and I do not pretend to understand it; I had better refer to the accounts; I am satisfied that relief was not discontinued without hearing the statement of the pauper, and having his circumstances inquired into.

13973. *Chairman.*] In some cases where the relief was discontinued upon a particular week, was it not afterwards, upon reconsideration, renewed?—Yes, in many instances.

13974. Mr. *Fielden.*] In how many?—Without going through, week after week, it is impossible to ascertain; the riot took place on the 14th of May 1835; that I recollect perfectly.

13975. *Chairman.*] When did those instances of relief being discontinued occur?—The 12th week of the parochial year 1835.

13976. When does the parochial year begin?—Lady-day.

13977. What week would the 12th week of the parochial year be?—The 17th of June.

13978. Then, in those instances, the discontinuance appears to have taken place in the course of the month of June; that could not have been the cause of the riot which took place in the month of May preceding?—No, I should think not.

13979. Mr. *Lister.*] That was the time you had the hay-harvest?—Yes.

13980. That might have been one cause of the reduction in the amount of relief?—I am perfectly convinced that no pauper had his out-door relief discontinued without having, first of all, laid his case personally before the board of guardians; I was then chairman of the board, and every one of those points would appear in the chairman's book.

13981. Mr. *Fielden.*] It has been stated in evidence that, when the workhouse was completed in Ampthill, relief was withdrawn from able-bodied persons, and the workhouse was offered to them?—Yes, it was.

13982. At what period of time was that?—I think Ampthill workhouse was not in a fit state for the reception of the paupers till the month of February 1836.

13983. What was the practice with respect to applicants for relief before the workhouse was completed, during the continuance of the old workhouse?—They were paid half in kind, and the remainder in money.

13984. Was not the workhouse offered at all?—We had no workhouse, at least the workhouse at Ampthill was on a very small scale.

13985. *Chairman.*] Was the workhouse at Ampthill a parochial workhouse?—Yes.

13986. Was it confined to the parish of Ampthill?—Yes.

 13987. When

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13987. When you formed the union, did you determine to build a new workhouse?—Yes.

13988. That workhouse was completed in February, 1836?—Yes.

13989. Therefore, at the time that this discontinuance of relief is stated to have taken place, and during all the time that intervened between the formation of your union and the completion of your workhouse, had you any workhouse which you could offer to the paupers in the union?—No, we had not.

13990. Mr. *Fielden.*] Then up to the time of the workhouse being completed, relief was given to the poor persons at their own homes?—Yes.

13991. Was it known to the inhabitants of the Ampthill Union, that when the workhouse should be completed relief would be withdrawn from able-bodied persons?—I do not know that we made it known to all the inhabitants.

13992. Was it not notorious what the workhouse was erected for?—Yes, I dare say it was.

13993. You did not intend to have a larger workhouse, without having a greater number of inmates in it?—No, we thought there would be a great number; taking the average number of paupers, we thought it would require a larger workhouse to accommodate so many at that time; and there we have been deceived.

13994. Was it rumoured that when the workhouse was completed the men who had had relief from the parish would receive no relief but in the workhouse?—No; that depends upon the circumstances of each case, what the decision of the board would be.

13995. *Chairman.*] But the question refers to the expectation of the paupers as to whether relief would be withdrawn?—I cannot say what might have been the expectation of the people, I know what the expectation of the guardians was.

13996. Mr. *Fielden.*] Would not the poor who had been receiving relief from the parish very likely be alive to any report being circulated, that relief would be withdrawn except in the workhouse, after the workhouse was completed?—No.

13997. You think the poor would not take any notice of rumours or reports of that sort?—I cannot say.

13998. Was any thing said about the new workhouse when the riot took place in 1835, by the labourers who assembled upon that occasion?—I endeavoured to pacify and reason with the assemblage, and all I could hear was threatening me in the most extraordinary manner, exclaiming, "Blood or money," and using other dreadful expressions.

13999. Upon the first occasion you were present, and heard them say they would have blood or money?—Yes.

14000. Upon the latter occasion Mr. Whitehurst told you they said the same thing?—I will not be quite certain of that.

14001. But upon the first occasion you heard it yourself?—That I can speak positively to.

14002. Were those the only expressions they made use of?—There was some very strong language used of a very alarming nature, and that was followed up by an attack upon us; we were a handful of men against 400; there were only about 25 of us against 400.

14003. Mr. Adey said, in his evidence, that the cry was for work, upon that occasion?—Mr. Adey might have heard that, but it was a dreadful scene of confusion; 400 persons in a garden bombarding the workhouse.

14004. Do you not believe that the labourers in the Ampthill Union had much rather be employed at work, and receive wages for their work adequate for their maintenance, than be upon the parish books?—Every industrious man, I dare say, would.

14005. Are not the generality of them, in the Ampthill Union, disposed to be industrious, provided they can get employment and adequate wages?—I cannot take upon myself to answer that.

14006. But, living amongst them as a magistrate, and being well acquainted with the circumstances of the disturbances, and so on, ought you not to know also whether they are disposed to work, and to work willingly, if they can obtain employment and wages?—Yes, I think many would; some never would work, pay them whatever you would.

14007. Are there some yet that will not work?—I am sure of it.

14008. Has the law made any change in the character of those men; are they more

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more moral and industrious?—There are some persons that no law, whatever be its nature, will improve; they are naturally bad; they are born bad and will die bad.

14009. In answer to question 11312, which is this, "Have you, from your observation upon the subject, any reason to believe, as far as you can form a judgment, that the circumstance of men being now protected from their liability to provide for their children has operated as an inducement to the commission of crime?" your answer is, "I think it has; I do really think so;" what is the crime that you there speak of?—I am not able to prove that cases of infanticide have taken place, but my opinion is, that it is likely to be attended with that effect.

14010. *Chairman.*] You think the present state of the law likely to lead to infanticide?—Yes, that is my opinion.

14011. Have any cases of infanticide come under your knowledge since the passing of the law?—Not any.

14012. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was that the only species of crime that you were alluding to in that answer?—I think it may, with the class of persons for which I wish some protection to be afforded, be a temptation to commit suicide.

14013. *Chairman.*] What class?—I think there are to be found persons who, up to the period of deviation from the strict paths of virtue, have borne an irreproachable character, young women who have been seduced.

14014. You think that, with respect to those, the present state of the law is likely to lead to infanticide and suicide?—Yes.

14015. Have you met with any cases of infanticide?—No.

14016. And the law has been in operation now four years?—Yes.

14017. And you have met with no cases of infanticide in your neighbourhood since the passing of the law?—No.

14018–19. You say that the law is, in your opinion, likely to lead to suicide; have you any instances of the suicide of a young woman of this description in your neighbourhood?—No, I have not.

14020. Therefore, as far as your experience goes, both in the instances of suicide and infanticide, you have nothing to confirm the opinion that you still entertain?—No, I have not, as yet.

14021. Mr. *Lister.*] Do you think that the change of the law has caused young men to be more immoral in their conduct towards young women?—I can hardly state.

14022. Do you know whether bastardy has increased or decreased in your neighbourhood?—I think it is about the same, but there may be cases that are kept back, from a delicacy of feeling of the parties, and who may have to struggle with very great difficulties.

14023. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is there any other crime than that to which you have alluded in your former answer, that you think has increased in Bedfordshire?—No, I really do not know any.

14024. *Chairman.*] Wood-stealing?—There is, I think, throughout the county an increase in wood-stealing, but not in the Ampthill division; and I think, from my experience, having seen many of those persons when I have been attending the Luton and the Ampthill bench as a magistrate, that they go and steal wood for the sake of getting a little money to go to the beer-houses, and I attribute a great deal of that crime to the numerous beer-houses.

14025. Has not the amount of crime generally decreased in Bedfordshire 27 per cent.?—It has.

14026. Mr. *Fielden.*] When you say it has decreased, that is on a comparison of the returns of convictions?—Yes.

14027. Has crime increased to an alarming extent where parties have not been detected?—I think I should have heard of it in that part of the county if they had not been able to bring home the cases, but I am not aware of that.

14028. Do you agree in the representation made in the Appendix to the Poor Law Commissioners' Report, where it is stated that sheep-stealing has increased tenfold?—I think it is very much the other way.

14029. *Chairman.*] Do you know upon what authority that statement rests?—I do not remember having read such a passage.

14030. Do you not know that that statement rests upon the authority of a

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person of the name of Snitch, the relieving-officer of the Biggleswade Union who speaks merely of that union?—Yes, it is merely stated by him.

14031. Mr. *Fielden.*] The Biggleswade Union is in Bedfordshire?—Yes.

14032. Do you think the crime of sheep-stealing is more frequent in the Ampthill Union than it formerly was?—I think I should hear of it if it were so, for I attend regularly at the quarter sessions.

14033. You think it could not take place without its coming to your knowledge?—It might, certainly; but being a great deal about in the county I think I should hear of it.

14034. Mr. *Walker.*] Do you attend the quarter sessions of the division in which Biggleswade is?—Regularly.

14035. Have you heard any thing stated in conversation among the justices, as to the increase of crime?—No.

14036. Has there been less crime in Bedfordshire, in consequence of the destruction of game?—There is a considerable decrease in poaching.

14037. That was a crime that was frequently prosecuted?—Yes, there is a very great diminution, I think, in poaching; it is quite extraordinary, and yet gentlemen preserve their game as strictly. Lord de Grey is a strict preserver of game; two or three years back as many as 40 or 50 parties were brought before me; I hardly had an hour to myself, and now there are hardly 10 cases in the course of a year.

14038. Do you attribute a great portion of the 27 per cent., which appears upon the returns to be the diminution of crime in Bedfordshire, to the destruction of game in Bedfordshire?—No, I do not know that it is to be attributed to that.

14039. Is there a diminution of all crimes?—I think so.

14040. *Chairman.*] With regard to the statement about sheep-stealing, will you take this report in your hand; you will find that it does not rest even upon the authority of Mr. Snitch, who is the relieving-officer of the Biggleswade Union; but is an extract of one of the many communications that Mr. Snitch has received from persons whose names are not given?—"I am fully persuaded the morals of the labourers are much improved by the new Poor Law system; there seems to be a general disposition to do more for their families, and are more condescending to their employers; wages are 1*s.* per week higher, from the advance in corn; they tell me, 'It was those idle vagabonds that brought about this new law;' I am sorry to say that sheep-stealing and other depredations have been more prevalent since the system commenced than was ever known before; I consider this to arise from those bad fellows, who will not work, not being able to get any money from the overseer, as they had been accustomed."

14041. That paragraph which you have read, is No. 9 of the communications received by Mr. Snitch, and forwarded by him to the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, to Mr. Adey?—Yes.

14042. Therefore it rests upon the authority of an anonymous correspondent of Mr. Snitch?—Yes, this is another communication, No. 12: "I think there is a greater disposition on the part of the able-bodied labourers to seek and retain employment than before the new Poor Law came into operation; but I do not see much alteration in their general manners and habits; the alehouses are, I think, more frequented than ever, which may be accounted for in some measure by the facility given to the lower classes of persons in towns to obtain licenses to sell beer, and partly by the neglect of the parish-officers and the respectable inhabitants generally, in not enforcing the law against beer-shop keepers for selling at unseasonable times; the rate of wages has not been altered in this parish for a length of time; but considering the low price of wheat the last year (the price of which article has always been a guide), I may say they are much higher than formerly; I do think that the industrious labourers generally feel more satisfied with their condition, in consequence of the system adopted towards the idle; but I am not of opinion that poaching and petty depredations have at all diminished; but that the greater crime of sheep-stealing has increased in a tenfold degree." That is extract No. 12, in Mr. Snitch's letter; that also is from an anonymous correspondent.

14043. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you find any parallel to those cases in the Ampthill Union where you reside?—No, I do not, indeed; and I think I can speak positively on that point, because the vice-chairman of the board has the management of a society; the agriculturists in the neighbourhood subscribe an annual sum to bear

bear the loss which different parties may sustain by having their sheep stolen, and he has not had occasion to pay any body for any loss during the last year; Mr. Overman has the management of that society.

14044. Subscriptions are raised from the farmers for the purpose of indemnifying themselves from losses by sheep-stealing?—Yes.

14045. And no greater number of claims have been brought forward in the last year than there were in the year preceding?—That has been stated already.

14046. *Chairman.*] This is a return of prisoners committed to the county gaol and the old house of correction, Bedford, from the different parishes in the Ampthill Union. In the year 1832, from this return, there appear to have been 52 prisoners committed to the county gaol from the parishes in the Ampthill Union; out of those 52 there appears to have been one committed for sheep-stealing, who was transported for life. In the year 1833, there were 54 prisoners committed, and none in that year for stealing sheep. In the year 1834, there were 53 prisoners committed, and two committed for sheep-stealing, both of whom were transported for life. In the year 1835, there were 63 prisoners committed, and three for sheep-stealing, two of whom were transported and one acquitted. In the year 1836, the number of prisoners appears to have been very much diminished, being only 37, three of whom were for sheep-stealing; one acquitted and two transported for life. In the year 1837, the number of prisoners appears to have been further diminished, having been reduced to 16, four of whom were for sheep-stealing, three of whom were transported for life, and one acquitted. In the year 1838, up to the 24th of May, one person appears to have been committed for sheep-stealing, and to have been sentenced to 10 years' transportation. From this return, one would say that, though the number of persons committed for offences in the parishes in the Ampthill Union appears to have diminished since the introduction of the new law, the crime of sheep-stealing has increased; have you heard that statement?—Yes.

14047. That statement is a return made to this Committee by the keeper of the gaol at Bedford?—Yes.

14048. From that return, would it not appear that though the crimes have generally diminished very much, the particular crime of sheep-stealing has increased?—Yes, it would appear so from that return.

14049. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have some doubts about the return of parishes in the Ampthill Union being correct?—I have.

14050. *Chairman.*] Do you think it probable that some of those persons have been stated in that return to belong to the parishes in the Ampthill Union, but who really belong to some other parishes?—I think so.

14051. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you known any cases of sheep-stealing, where parties who have done it have not been detected?—There have been cases certainly, not recently.

14052. Have a great number of cases occurred during the last winter?—Not that I am aware of.

14053. Do you know whether there have or have not?—I do not think that there have been.

14054. You have no knowledge upon the subject?—No; I think that if there had been, I should have been applied to, or my father, being the magistrates generally resident in that division; the parties would have come to one of us.

14055. For what purpose would they have come to you?—To state the case, and to ask whether there was sufficient to entitle the magistrate to grant a search-warrant, or to take the depositions of the parties, or to advise them what course to pursue.

14056. Have you been in the habit of granting search-warrants to detect those who have been guilty of stealing sheep?—In very few cases.

14057. Is it not very difficult to find out a case of that description by a search-warrant?—I do not know; there was a very singular case in the list, which the Chairman has referred to, of discovery of the parties.

14058. What is the practice when an able-bodied labourer applies to the Ampthill board for relief; what answer is generally returned to him by the board of guardians, after inquiring into the nature of his case?—As an able-bodied man, that if he wants any relief he may come into the workhouse.

14059. Is any other relief given him than the offer of the workhouse, in the

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case of an able-bodied man with a family?—In some cases they grant people a loan, to be repaid by instalments of small sums.

14060. Have you been in the habit of granting many loans to labourers at the Ampthill board?—We have assisted the labourer, by lending him money.

14061. Have the cases been numerous?—I cannot at this moment state how many.

14062. Do the labouring men in employment show a great aversion to go into the workhouse?—No; men who are employed I do not think have any occasion to think about it.

14063. They do not make application when they are in employment, because they know that they would be refused any relief out of the workhouse; is that the case?—I do not understand the question.

14064. Cannot you imagine that a man in employment, but receiving wages insufficient for his maintenance, might apply to the board of guardians for relief?—I do not think we should listen to his case; he is not a pauper.

14065. *Chairman.*] When you say you would not listen to the case of an applicant who came before you, stating that his wages were not sufficient to maintain his family, do you mean to say that you, at the board, would not hear that man's case, and consider it?—Yes, we should.

14066. How would you deal with a man who came to you and made such a statement as I have described?—I think I should tell him, "If your master does not pay you sufficient, I would advise you to take your labour to a better market."

14067. Are you not in the habit of offering the workhouse to those who state that their wages are insufficient to maintain their families?—Yes.

14068. What meaning, then, is to be attached to the expression of your not listening to such a case; I understood you to say, in answer to a question that was just now put to you, that if a man came to the board of guardians, stating that he was in employment, but that his wages were insufficient to maintain his family, you would not listen to his case; what am I to understand by that answer?—I do not think that we can inquire into that case, and do any thing for him except offering him the workhouse; the case, put as I understand it, is a man who is in work, but not sufficiently remunerated for his work; he applies to us for assistance to make up his wages.

14069. The question put to you did not suppose that the wages were to be made up, but that a man in employment, but not having wages adequate to the maintenance of his family, applied to you, and stated, that his family could not be maintained upon the wages he received; how would you deal in such a case?—Offer him the workhouse.

14070. Mr. *Fielden.*] Has it been your invariable practice to offer the workhouse to all applicants for relief who are in full employment?—Yes, I think it has; there may be some exceptions.

14071. Have you had many applications for relief from labourers who have said that they could not live upon their earnings?—No, I am not aware.

14072. Have you been constant in your attendance at the board since you became guardian?—Very.

14073. Then all cases that have been heard that have been laid before the board, have come under your cognizance?—Yes, with some exceptions, when I may have been absent; I have not had an opportunity of attending the board but once since the commencement of the present inquiry; if you are alluding to any thing recent, I am not aware of it.

14074. Prior to your coming up before this Committee you were constant in your attendance at the board?—Yes.

14075. If any applications were made, they must have come under your notice?—Yes.

14076. Were any applications made to you on any occasion for relief by persons who were in full employment, but who stated that they could not obtain a sufficiency to support their families?—I do not recollect a case of that kind; I could easily refer to the books (we have them here), and then I should be able to speak more decidedly to the way in which the case was disposed of.

14077. After you made it a practice to offer nothing but the workhouse, it is not very likely that the labourers would not apply unless they were disposed to go into it; do you not think so?—Possibly.

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14078. You do not expect applications from many able-bodied labourers who are in employment, for admittance into the workhouse?—I do not know; I cannot state.

14079. In case you denied them any relief at the board, except the workhouse, what effect do you think that has upon wages?—I cannot really say.

14080. You can give no opinion as to what its operation will be upon wages?—No.

14081. *Chairman.*] Have wages in your part of the country changed since the alteration of the law?—I think they have improved.

14082. In what sense improved?—The labourers are much better paid in many instances.

14083. You say you generally offer an able-bodied man the workhouse when he applies for relief; are you not in the habit of affording able-bodied men relief out of the workhouse in case their families are in sickness?—Yes, that makes a difference.

14084. If a man were in full employment at the common wages of the country, and were to state to the board that he was in distress from any of his family being unwell, should you, under such circumstances, give that man relief in consideration of the illness of his family, without proposing to him the workhouse?—Yes, we do it repeatedly.

14085. You are in the habit of doing it?—We are; we give an order for the medical gentleman to report on the case, and if he satisfies us that there really is illness, out-door relief is granted in money, or such necessaries as the medical gentleman may order.

14086. Mr. *Fielden.*] In the former part of your evidence you stated that you could give no information relative to wages?—That is a subject that I have not entered upon; I have not made any calculation.

14087. You do not know what the rate of wages is, so as to be able to speak to them with any satisfaction to yourself?—It depends upon the labour that the men are employed upon; there is a gentleman here, the vice-chairman, who is a large occupier, and he can speak to that; the wages have been 7 *s.*, and they now are 8 *s.* or 9 *s.*, and they improve monthly; I think it has an excellent effect. A man in employment coming before the board, we ask him, "What do you receive in your parish?" I have heard such questions asked; "Seven shillings a week." Then I have told them, "It is a disgrace to the party who owns or farms the land in that parish, and I beg you will tell him so;" and they are made acquainted with it, and a great alteration in wages is effected in this way.

14088. Can you mention any cases where persons who received 7 *s.* a week have had them advanced to 8 *s.* and to 9 *s.*?—I think I may state that that has been the case in Cranfield parish.

14089. Can you mention any cases?—No; so many persons have come before me that it is difficult to remember their names.

14090. You are not prepared to give an opinion upon what effect the offer of the workhouse produces upon the labourer as to willingness to accept work at a lower rate of wages?—No, I am not.

Mr. *Thomas William Overman*, called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *T. W. Overman.*

14091. Mr. *Fielden.*] HAVE you been vice-chairman of the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union since its commencement?—For three years; I was not vice-chairman the first year, but the last three years I have been vice-chairman.

14092. Can you state what the practice of the board is when able-bodied labourers apply for relief?—An able-bodied man is put upon the application list and admitted to the board; he is then examined; and his case inquired into; if he is an able-bodied man, and his family all well, he is told that he can have no other relief than the workhouse.

14093. The workhouse is invariably offered to him?—It is, supposing his family are all well.

14094. That has been invariably the practice since you became vice-chairman of the board?—It has, at least since our workhouse has been built.

14095. Have the applications to the board from able-bodied labourers in employment increased or diminished during your experience?—Decreased.

14096. Was there a considerable number of applications made after you first commenced sitting at the board?—There were a great many, and there have been

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at particular times a great many; one day this year there were 24 or 25; but, speaking generally, they have decreased.

14097. Did the 24 or 25 make application in one day in this year for relief? —Yes; and when the question was asked them, they told me they were sent by Messrs. Crabtree & Turner.

14098. Which of them told you that?—There were several of them; I put that question particularly, "Did any one order you to come?" and they said, "Yes, sir; we were told to come by the Queen's Commissioners."

14099. Can you mention the names?—I know many of them made that answer; whether I can remember the names I do not know.

14100. Is not every application made by persons applying for relief entered at the board?—Yes.

14101. Is not the answer that is given to them also entered?—Yes.

14102. Will you refer to those entries on the day when so many made application?—[*The Witness referred to the books.*] In the fifth week, from the parish of Steppingley, there was William Saville; he was aged 22, single, able-bodied man, applied for relief; he was offered the workhouse; James Lines, Steppingley, likewise; Thomas Battams, James Saville, Benjamin Lines, Thomas Cook, Samuel Fells and Frederick Cole; they all came from the parish of Steppingley, in the fifth week.

14103. *Chairman.*] Did any of those say that they had been told to come?—They said they had been ordered, but they would not say by whom; and that was at the same time that Messrs. Turner and Crabtree were down in the neighbourhood; those men would not say who had ordered them.

14104. Mr. *Fielden.*] What was the answer given to those eight?—They were all offered the workhouse.

14105. Will you state what their families were, if you have an account of them?—Only one of them has a wife; she is 65 years old; I advised one or two to go for soldiers; one is a particularly fine young fellow, and I thought he would make an excellent guardsman.

14106. And those men told you that they had been advised to make application for relief to the board?—That they were told to come.

14107. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Did those men manifest any distress or any great anxiety for relief, or was there that boldness which men put on when they are acting a part?—Boldness; there was nothing like distress; and on the fifth week,—I turn to the parish of Westoning; I find John Cox, an able-bodied man; he was offered the workhouse; William Cox; he was offered the workhouse; John Hack was offered the workhouse; Joseph Chew was offered the workhouse; there were five the same week from Westoning; that makes 13.

14108. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did those give the same answer?—I really do not know about them; most likely some of them did.

14109. That they were ordered to come?—Yes; I had seen one of those men at work at Westoning, and I thought he had been plaiting, and I wished to see his fingers, to find out whether he had not; but he popped them into his pocket, and I could not see them.

14110. Did they say who had ordered them to go?—I did not ask them, but I asked those young men, seeing one come after another.

14111. Do you know that people have been at Westoning?—I know people have been at Westoning, not always giving the best advice in the world.

14112. Who were the men that gave the advice?—I was at Westoning last week, viewing the land, and a man told me that the law would very soon be altered; that it was coming back to the old system, which he was glad of, for he was a very idle fellow.

14113. Did you ask him who it was who advised them to come?—I never asked them, for I had a suspicion who it was.

14114. Though they told you they had been advised to come, you did not ask them whom they had been advised by?—No.

14115. *Chairman.*] Did you care two straws by whom they had been advised? —I did not.

14116. Mr. *Fielden.*] You did not care any thing about it then, and you do not care any thing about it now?—No; I am satisfied it was not a friend that advised them to come, because a friend would not have given them that advice.

14117. Do you think they could be prevailed upon to go to any great distance, if they had not needed relief?—We have seen extraordinary things, what men

can

can prevail upon others to do, in Kent particularly; if people can be so drawn there, perhaps they might in other counties likewise.

14118. Those men, before they could get to the board, made application to the relieving-officer?—No doubt of it.

14119. And the relieving-officer admitted them to the board?—He did.

14120. Has he always been as ready to admit the men to the board as he was on that occasion?—I have never known him guilty of a dereliction of duty in that respect.

14121. Have you never known him refuse any one going to the board who has been waiting a long time?—I have heard a case of that sort, but never proved or attempted to be proved. One case we did investigate, and it turned out to be untrue; I had heard that it was the case, and I was satisfied that it was false, and I brought it before the board, that it might be investigated.

14122. Did you not hear the case of Mr. Thomas, a guardian, who recommended a person to come to the board?—Yes, I did hear of that; but the woman did not come to the board till very late, and the board had broken up.

14123. *Chairman.*] That was the case of Sarah Billington?—Yes.

14124. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you had any applications since that day on which you had so many?—I have been in London since; I do not think I have attended the board since that, so that I cannot say; but I see here is one case: one day four men came into the house, but left on the same day, on the master desiring them to be washed and dressed in the union clothes, which they refused to do, and they left the house; and I should say, likewise, that we had had no application from Steppingley for two years previously, from men out of work.

14125. Have there been many out of work, either in Steppingley or any other parish, during the last winter?—I do not believe many people have been out of work, taking the parishes through.

14126. Have there been any?—I will not say that there have been none.

14127. In what parish do you reside?—In the parish of Maulden.

14128. Have there been many out of work?—I am not aware of any that were disposed to work; there have been one or two idle ones that have been out of work.

14129. One or two idle ones are all that are out of work in the parish of Maulden?—I do not think many.

14130. Do you know any?—Yes, there may have been one or two.

14131. But those have been idle men?—Yes.

14132. None disposed to work have been out of work during the last winter?—I am not aware of any.

14133. You know that none have been out of work in the parish of Maulden during the last winter?—I do not say that; there may have been one or two out of work now and then.

14134. Do you know of any others in the other parishes?—There may have been here and there one.

14135. What do you mean by "here and there one"?—Here and there a man, but not a great number.

14136. Do you know that a subscription was set on foot in Ampthill for the relief of the poor during the last winter?—There always is, every winter.

14137. Were the numbers relieved in the parish of Ampthill, out of that subscription, greater this year than in former years?—I do not think it is confined to the men out of work; it is given to all labourers, whether in work or out of work.

14138. If they have a sufficiency for a comfortable maintenance?—Even then they have it; they have coals; it is open to all.

14139. *Chairman.*] Is not that subscription in the nature of a charity to assist people during the severe weather?—It is.

14140. Are not all labourers, whether in work or out of work, exposed to the same inconvenience during the severe weather, for want of fuel?—Yes, and this is open to all.

14141. Mr. *Fielden.*] Were there any subscriptions raised in any of the other parishes besides Ampthill?—Yes; in the parish of Silsoe there were coals given away; and in Milbrook also, and in Marston; I hope there are charitably disposed people in all parishes.

14142. Was there any subscription raised in the parish of Maulden?—I believe not.

 14143. You

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14143. You are quite certain that there were none out of employment, in that parish, during the winter?—I do not say none.

14144. How many were there out of employment?—There may have been a few; I will not name any number.

14145. You can give no idea as to the number?—I can judge from this, that I had no men come to me in the winter to ask for work, and if there had been many out of work they would, I think, have come to me.

14146. *Chairman.*] If respectable labourers had come to you and said that they wanted work, should you have been able to employ them?—I should have given them work.

14147. Mr. *Fielden.*] Had you work for them?—I should have given it, from charity, if I had seen an able-bodied labourer out of work, if I did not gain any thing by the man.

14148. Then if a labourer in the Ampthill Union was out of work, and came to you to seek work, you would find him work?—I spoke of the parish of Maulden.

14149. In the parish of Maulden no labourers would make application for work but you would employ them?—I do not say all the labourers.

14150. It is not every labourer that you would employ?—No.

14151. What description of labourers would you not employ?—If I am here to impeach a man's character, I can do it, but I do not want to do so; there are some men that I have a particular dislike to.

14152. Are there many men in the parish of Maulden that are bad characters?—No.

14153. Their characters are generally good?—They are.

14154. Then there are none that you would not employ?—I do not say that; there may be one or two that I should not.

14155. Do you know the number of labourers in the parish of Maulden?—Not to a man, I do not.

14156. Can you give any estimate?—No; I will not speak unless I can speak confidently; I generally keep a list of the men, but I have it not with me.

14157. You, being a guardian of the Ampthill Union, have a considerable knowledge of the labourers in the other parishes?—Yes, from what appears before the board.

14158. Are the men in the other parishes of better or worse character than those in the parish of Maulden?—I will not speak against the men's characters, generally speaking; I will not libel the men.

14159. You are satisfied that in general in Bedfordshire labourers are of good character?—Generally speaking they are, and good labourers.

14160. What are the earnings that the labourers get in the parish of Maulden, either by the week or by the year?—Sometimes they earn from 9*s.* to 16*s.*, 17*s.* and 18*s.* a week; I paid one of my men, last Saturday night, 18*s.* a week.

14161. At what work was he employed?—Spreading manure; they go to work at four o'clock and half-past three in the morning; and when I went out they had taken 30 loads of muck out and spread.

14162. How many men do you employ?—I have 26 at this time.

14163. What is the number of acres that you have?—Five hundred ploughed, and 130 acres of grass, in the parish of Maulden.

14164. Twenty-six men are sufficient to do the work that is required upon that farm?—Yes, certainly; I have more in harvest time.

14165. In harvest time you want an additional supply?—Yes; then I have 60 or 70, as suits my work.

14166. Where do you draw your supply from in harvest time?—From the neighbourhood.

14167. Are they always to be obtained in the neighbourhood?—Yes; I never wanted men.

14168. If that additional number can be obtained during harvest, how are they employed out of harvest?—I will explain that: In the parish I live in, the corn is cut rather sooner, and I get people from other parts, and they are the first week with me, and then they go to other parishes, thereby making five weeks in the harvest instead of four.

14169. Then your parish being in the forwardest state, you can get the labourers out of other parishes?—Yes; and tradesmen, carpenters, and collar-makers, and

and blacksmiths work at harvest; they can earn more money in harvest than they can in their own trade, and therefore they go to that work.

14170. Is there any difficulty in obtaining a sufficiency of labourers in the harvest?—I have never experienced it.

14171. Have you heard that others have experienced it?—I have not.

14172. But there are additional hands required during harvest?—Yes.

14173. And those hands must have other occupation in other seasons than harvest seasons?—I know some counties where the women make a point of going out in harvest time.

14174. But you do not get your increased supply from females?—I know one county, the county I came from, where it is usual for the women to go and cut most of the wheat; for this reason, that the turnip-hoeing coming at the same time as the harvest, the men are hoeing the turnips, and the women cut the wheat.

14175. You have stated in your evidence, that the men are now more employed than they were before the passing of the new Poor Law; what has been the cause of that increased employment?—The willingness on the part of the men to work, and the capability of the farmer to employ them; he has more capital; there are two reasons.

14176. Has the farmer's capital increased since the Poor Law Act has passed?—The farmer has more money.

14177. How does he obtain that?—One thing is, the overseer does not come so often, and there is that money to invest in his farm, and that money being profitably employed will, of course, produce an increase.

14178. The saving of the rates has given the farmers an increased means of employing the poor?—Partly.

14179. Is that all the increase in the capital to which you allude?—No; I think the farmers' means are improved from having that money to employ, and that has made increased capital, his saving in the rates.

14180. Then the farmers can afford to pay better wages now than they could before the Act was passed?—It is the same with farmers as all other trades; the farmer finds labour for his money, and he must pay according to the worth of it.

14181. If he has savings from rates, and an increase of production, he is now in a position to give better wages to his labourers?—He is in a situation which all other people are in, employing capital profitably; and in making an increase that will apply to all; because if a man has increased profit upon a trade he has an increased ability to lay out that upon his farm.

14182. You are a farmer yourself; have you not an increased income, so that you can pay the labourers better wages than you did before the Poor Law Act was passed?—I have increased means.

14183. Have you advanced the wages of the labourer since the Poor Law Act was passed?—I should say I have; in 1834 the general wages of the country were 8 *s.*, where the men worked by the day; they are paid now 9 *s.*

14184. Are you speaking of the wages you paid yourself?—I paid that in 1834; and in 1837 I paid 9 *s.*

14185. For the same work?—Yes; but I am inclined to think that I get more work than I did; the men do the work better, and we get more work.

14186. Do you give 9 *s.* now for the work which you gave 8 *s.* for in 1834?—Yes; the same description of work.

14187. But for the same quantity of work, as well as the same description, do you give 9 *s.*?—I am inclined to think that we get more work; in 1834 wages were high, and had corn kept at the price that it was in 1834, I have no doubt that wages would have been down to 6 *s.*; they must have been.

14188. Is not corn higher now than it was in 1834?—Not taking the year 1837; you will not find a great difference between 1834 and 1837, putting wheat and barley together; wheat was dearer in 1837, but in barley there was a considerable difference between 1834 and 1837; therefore, as far as that goes, the income of the farmer was not a great deal more in 1837 than in 1834, though he gave more money.

14189. The price of wheat in 1834 was lower than it was in 1837?—It was.

14190. Considerably lower?—It was lower.

14191. The returns show what the price of wheat was throughout the maritime

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places?—Yes, and it shows the price of barley, which is a material thing in the income of the farmers, who look at the prices of their general produce.

14192. Has the price of the general produce of the farm increased since 1834?—I do not think it has a very great deal.

14193. You do not think a farm now will produce more?—Yes, a farm is producing more; it is clear that we have got more produce, decidedly, in 1837 than we had in 1834.

14194. You have got a greater quantity of produce from the same land in 1837 than in 1834?—Yes.

14195. Have you got better prices for that produce in 1837 than in 1834?—I should say not; the price was not greater.

14196. Do you grow wheat or barley?—Both.

14197. Wheat, you have said, is higher than it was in 1834; is barley higher or lower?—Lower.

14198. How much is it lower?—Eight shillings a quarter, as nearly as possible.

14199. And the advance upon wheat is absorbed by the reduction in the price of barley, in the growth of your farm?—Yes.

14200. And taking barley and wheat together, you get no better price now than you did in 1834?—I do not think we do, taking the averages.

14201. Then your means of giving more wages to the labourers does not arise from an increased value being given to your produce?—Certainly not, in price per quarter.

14202. *Chairman.*] Do you think the quantity of your produce has increased?—No doubt of it.

14203. Do you attribute that to the better system of labour?—Yes.

14204. Do you feel that there has been that change since the introduction of the law?—Decidedly; the men are more willing to work; the farmers have not any thing like the same trouble in looking after them; we are getting, generally speaking, more money than we did before; the master now can leave home with greater comfort than he could before, and when he has returned he has not to find the same fault; there is a nicer feeling between master and man; that is increasing very fast indeed.

14205. Did that exist before?—On the contrary, I may say that I would not have continued farming if the old law had continued.

14206. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is it not notorious, that since the introduction of the law there has been a greater disposition to employ capital in farming?—Yes.

14207. Formerly the farms occupied by a man and two or three of his sons were the only profitable farms, while those individuals who had large farms were disposed to quit them altogether; was not that the case?—Yes.

14208. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have said that you get more work from the labourers now than you did in 1834, and the only difference in their wages is, that the 8*s.* in 1834 increased to 9*s.* in 1837?—Yes, increased 1*s.*, taking the general wages; I quote the price of labour as 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, but I do not mean to say that my men earn only 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; my men earned last week 12*s.*

14209. Taking your last answer, that you gave 8*s.* in 1834 and 9*s.* in 1837, do the men do the same work?—They give us more work, and they get 1*s.* more for it.

14210. Will that additional shilling which you pay them for doing this work place them in circumstances of receiving a greater income in 1837 than they did in 1834?—Decidedly; the man will not eat more in 1837 than he did in 1834, and he has 1*s.* increase.

14211. Did he receive nothing from the parish in 1834?—No.

14212. There was nothing paid in the parish of Maulden to the poor in 1834?—No.

14213. Then, before the Poor Law Bill was passed you had made this alteration?—We never did pay head-money in that parish.

14214. Did you relieve the able-bodied labourers in any way?—Not when they were in work for a farmer; only when the man was ill.

14215. In the parish of Maulden, then, you had introduced the system of the new Poor Law?—We have always acted up to it in the 24 years that I have been there.

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14216. You have always acted upon the system of refusing relief to the able-bodied when they were in full work?—Yes.

14217. That was the practice which prevailed for 24 years in that parish?—Yes.

14218. How have the rates, then, been reduced in that parish, if you had adopted the system which, you say, is now in practice under the new law?—I do not say that that was wholly the practice in Maulden formerly, because many men used to be paid by the overseer who had no work; they were out of work, and used to go to the overseer, and he paid them, and the same wages as if they were in work.

14219. Was there not the same reason why they should be in work in 1834 as in 1837?—No; there was an indifference to go to work in 1834, believing that they were entitled to their money, whether they went to work or not.

14220. *Chairman.*] And, in point of fact, receiving their money, whether they worked or not?—Yes.

14221. Was not that a premium upon idleness?—Yes.

14222. Did not a man, as a matter of course, go to the overseer and say that he was come for his money?—Yes.

14223. Was not that an inducement to the man to neglect his work?—Yes.

14224. Mr. *Fielden.*] Was there not the same inducement for the labourer to seek employment then that there is now?—No; the men had an idea that they could have the money whether they worked or not; and I believe it is the case with too many of us, that we will not work if we can receive money without working.

14225. You think men in general do not like work?—No, I think it is inherent in man to be lazy.

14226. You have found out a mode by which you can make them do that which they do not like to do?—A man is dependent upon himself, and a man's own feelings of regard for his family induce him to go to work, who did not before.

14227. If relief was denied in 1834, before the new law, during the 24 years you have spoken of, the men must have had some means of obtaining employment; what did they do?—The men in work never had relief; those out of employment had relief, and went to the parish officer, and had money for doing no work; that system went on in the parish of Maulden, as in others.

14228. Could not the overseers in the parish of Maulden have refused relief to the men, unless they would exert themselves?—What would be the result if they did? The men would go to the magistrates, and state that they could get no work; they would be paid, the magistrate would order the men to be relieved; the law had become perverted.

14229. Do you know any case of that kind?—I do; I have had that said to me.

14230. Is there a magistrate in the parish of Maulden?—No.

14231. Where does the nearest magistrate reside?—Four miles off, at Milbrook, another at Houghton, and one at Clophill.

14232. Were those magistrates in the habit of directing relief to be given by overseers, when a man refused to work?—They always ordered relief; they thought the overseer too much interested, and they believed the man rather than the overseer.

Joshua Ingham, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Ingham, Esq.

14233. *Chairman.*] YOU are chairman of the Dewsbury Union?—Yes, I am.

14234. That union is not in operation for the purpose of administering relief, is it?—It is not.

14235. Is it in existence merely for registration purposes?—For the registration purposes; and we have transacted business with respect to the new valuations.

14236. Have you seen any statement given to this Committee by Mr. Ellison, who is a guardian of the Dewsbury Union, with reference to the expenses of the establishment of that union?—Yes, I have.

14237. Have you any statement which you wish to make with respect to that evidence?—I think Mr. Ellison estimates the establishment expenses of the union at a higher rate than I should do, as compared with the expenditure under the old law.

14238. Have you any statement which you would wish to submit with reference

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to the expenses of the establishment of the Dewsbury Union?—It appears, by the return made by the overseers of the townships in the union, that the salaries of the paid officers, under the old law, amounted to 532*l.* 6*s.* annually, excluding medical relief, for I have not taken that into consideration.

14239. That is for all the parishes of the Dewsbury Union?—Yes, according to the returns given in by the assistant-overseers and parish officers to the clerk of the union.

14240. Does that include the expense of masters and matrons of the different workhouses?—It does.

14241. Are there several workhouses in that union?—Yes; I think all the townships have workhouses except Morley (where the overseers rent a few cottages), and Whitley Lower.

14242. There are 11 townships, are there not, in the union?—Yes.

14243. Mr. Ellison states that the expenses of the establishment in those 11 townships were 410*l.*; you make the expense, instead of 410*l.*, 532*l.* 6*s.*?—Yes, from the returns, excluding medical relief.

14244. Mr. Ellison's statement appears to include medical relief; will you look over his evidence, and state the particulars in which you differ from him [*the Witness examined the evidence*]?—From the returns of the parish officers, the amount of the expenditure is 532*l.* 6*s.* in salaries to assistant-overseers, and masters and matrons of the workhouses, where there are any.

14245. Will you state them one by one?—Dewsbury, assistant-overseer, 43*l.* a year; the matron, 46*l.* Ossett, assistant-overseer and master of the poor-house, 40*l.* Soothill, assistant-overseer, 12*l.*; matron, 9*l.* 2*s.* Batley, assistant-overseer, 30*l.*; vestry-clerk, 15*l.*; matron, 30*l.* Morley, vestry-clerk, 16 guineas; they have no assistant-overseer. Gomersall, assistant-overseer and master of the poor-house, 50*l.* Heckmondwike, assistant-overseer and master of the poor-house, 40*l.* Liversedge, assistant-overseer and master of the poor-house, 70*l.* Mirfield, assistant-overseer, 52*l.* 10*s.*; master and matron, 46*l.* Whitley Lower, assistant-overseer, 8*l.* Thornhill, assistant-overseer, 24*l.* This is the average expense for the years 1834, 1835 and 1836.

14246. Are those the items of which the 532*l.* is composed?—They are.

14247. Have you any means of estimating the probable expenses of the union, when brought into complete operation?—Only what I can judge may be the expenses, not having had any experience in any union. But I ought to say, with reference to Mr. Ellison's calculation, which amounts to 1,180*l.*, as being the probable expenditure of the new union, that that includes 240*l.* for medical relief, which would reduce it to 940*l.*

14248. Besides that, does it appear to you that Mr. Ellison's estimate may be taken as tolerably correct, with reference to the expense of the relieving-officers, and other parts of the establishment?—Mr. Ellison says, the clerk 140*l.* a year; I think that is not too much; for the four relieving-officers Mr. Ellison estimates 400*l.*; I think two relieving-officers will be able to do the work.

14249. At what salary?—One hundred pounds each; that will be one-half of the expense that he estimates.

14250. What is the population of the union?—Fifty thousand two hundred and thirty-two, by the last census.

14251. What is the greatest distance of any part of the union from the centre?—It may be six or seven miles.

14252. Do you think that two relieving-officers would be equal to the discharge of that duty?—I take that opinion partly from Mr. Power, who is the Assistant-commissioner, and in his opinion they will be sufficient; I have no experience to enable me to form an opinion myself; I look at it in this way, there are 11 townships, and two relieving-officers would have a day to attend each township; that would employ one officer six days and the other five days; but there are two small townships that might be taken together, Thornhill and Whitley Lower, which would occupy one day; then each would have a day in the week to make up his accounts.

14253. Do you contemplate, besides the relieving-officers, any assistant-overseer?—Yes.

14254. A paid assistant-overseer would relieve the relieving-officer of some of his duty, would he not?—The greatest part of the duty of the assistant-overseer would be in the collection of the rates.

14255. Besides that, would not the assistant-overseer be employed in discharging some of the duties which must otherwise fall upon the relieving-officer?—I think

think it is very likely that the board of guardians would take part of the duty of the assistant-overseers; they would decide in cases of settlement, and in that manner the overseer would be relieved of part of that duty which he now has, which is onerous.

14256. How many assistant-overseers do you propose?—Four would do the duty.

14257. What salary do you propose to give?—Seventy pounds to each.

14258. What do you allow for the masters of the workhouses?—There will be three workhouses required (I think Mr. Ellison did not mention any expenses with respect to masters and matrons of workhouses in his estimate); which workhouses will probably be at Gomersall, Dewsbury and Ossett; they will be sufficient, because the three are capable of containing, by returns made by the overseers, 235 inmates.

14259. You think that will be sufficient?—At the time of making the averages the inmates of the workhouses were 143.

14260. What salary do you propose to give to those three masters?—To the masters and matrons; Ossett, 70*l.* a year; Gomersall, 60*l.* and Dewsbury, 50*l.*

14261. At what do you estimate the medical relief?—I can scarcely speak satisfactorily upon that.

14262. What is it now?—It appears, by this return, to be 170*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*; but I will state why I cannot estimate it; Mr. Ellison has mentioned, in his evidence, that it has been the habit at Gomersal to give applicants for medical relief money to get their own medicines; I think that may have been the case in other townships, and that in calculating this medical relief those payments have not been taken into consideration.

14263. And that that has gone to the general expense?—Yes.

14264. Upon the best conjecture that you can form, what is the estimate that you would give to the Committee of the probable expenses of the establishment altogether?—Nine hundred and fifteen pounds, including the rents of the workhouses; and allow me to say, that I have calculated the rents for Ossett at 40*l.*; Gomersall, 35*l.*; Dewsbury, 20*l.*; and I calculated the rents upon the number of persons that the houses contain, in the same way that I have added the rental to the 532*l.* upon the whole number that the workhouses will contain; the whole of the workhouses are able to receive 530 inmates; and at 8*s.* a head, which I think would not be an unreasonable rate, it would amount to 212*l.* I have added that to 532*l.* 6*s.*, which gives 744*l.* 6*s.* as the expense of the former management.

14265. And the estimated expense of the future management applied to the same purposes will be, how much?—Nine hundred and fifteen pounds.

14266. Making a difference of what?—One hundred and seventy-one pounds fourteen shillings; but then in the old poor-houses, where we had eight tables, the cost varied from 3*s.* to 3*s.* 9*d.* a head; now I think with three workhouses, and, probably, with a better management, the cost will not be more than 2*s.* 6*d.* a head, or if you take it at 3*s.*, that will give you a saving upon that head of 145*l.* 16*s.*; which will reduce the expenses of the union, under the new regulation, to a very small sum indeed above the expenses under the old law.

14267. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you propose to have a master and matron attached to each workhouse?—Yes; and I have allowed salaries of 70*l.* and 60*l.* and 50*l.*

14268. If you were to classify the inmates of each workhouse, setting apart one for the old, a second for the able-bodied, and a third for the children, would you not diminish the expense by placing the able-bodied under the care of a master, and the children and the aged under the care of a matron only?—The workhouses are in townships at a considerable distance from each other, and I should propose to classify the inmates; but still I think they will require responsible people to superintend them.

14269. Is the population very much condensed in your union?—In many of the townships.

14270. *Chairman.*] Do you object to the size of the union?—I do not.

14271. Do you think the size will be in any degree inconvenient; do you think the population too great for good management?—I differ from Mr. Ellison in that, because I think a union cannot be too large, if you can work it; and for this reason, the guardians of a union of this size would be much less liable to be influenced by paupers coming from particular townships than they would be in a small union, as indeed was the fact in many cases under the old system with the select vestries and with the overseers.

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14272. Mr. *Miles.*] Still do you not conceive that the size of the union should be such as that the place of meeting of the board should be easily accessible to the paupers?—Yes; but this union is large more in population than in extent.

14273. In your last observation you spoke of, not the great extent of the union, but of the population?—Yes,

14274. *Chairman.*] Do you not propose to add to this establishment something for a chaplain?—I have not taken that into consideration particularly; I think with us there would be difficulties in that respect; we shall have three poor-houses which will be at some distance from each other, supposing this is carried into effect.

14275. Supposing that this is carried into effect, how would you propose to provide for the religious instruction of the inmates of the workhouses?—That I have not taken into consideration; with us we have a great number of dissenters; therefore I think it would be difficult to hit upon any plan which would satisfy the guardians.

14276. Are there any arrangements of that nature now with respect to the existing workhouses?—No, not that I am aware of; different ministers visit the inmates.

14277. But there are no chaplains attending, upon fixed salaries?—There are not.

14278. What would you propose to do with regard to the schools; there is no expense allowed for the schoolmasters in your estimate?—No.

14279. Is there any expense allowed for schoolmasters and schoolmistresses under the existing system?—No, I believe not.

14280. Do you reside in Dewsbury?—No, in Mirfield, three miles from Dewsbury.

14281. Have you long resided in that part of the country?—Yes, all my life, since I left the university.

14282. You know the nature of the population?—I do; I have acted seven years as a magistrate there.

14283. What is your opinion as to the expediency of introducing the new Poor Law into that district?—My opinion is, that it will work beneficially.

14284. In what respects do you think it will work beneficially?—I think that it will enable us to have a better system of management; the different townships are not all managed alike now; some are pretty well managed; others, as far as I can judge as a justice, are not well managed: in our township we collect the whole of the rates, very few people being summoned; in some of the other townships it is not unusual to have 100 people summoned for non-payment of poor-rates at one time, and I think there must be something wrong in the management, judging from that alone; and I see that the accounts in some townships are much better kept than in others.

14285. You think, in those respects the new system would give you an advantage over the former one?—Yes, and it would put us upon one uniform rule, because the board of guardians appear to me to be a select vestry, elected from different townships that cannot be influenced by individuals from one township; at least they are less likely to be influenced.

14286. You think their decisions are more likely to be guided by impartiality than if taken from a smaller body?—Yes.

14287. Do you think, under the arrangement of the relieving-officer and the board of guardians, that it is applicable to the population in the midst of which you live?—Indeed I do not see why it should not be so.

14288. You see nothing in the nature of the regulations which should make them inapplicable to that part of the country?—I do not.

14289. Do not you think, in cases of difficulty, in a commercial crisis, or any circumstances which might produce pressure upon the population, that it might be an advantage to have a more perfect system than the separate parochial management?—I think so, because in the separate parochial management, people are more likely to give relief from their feelings of what they would do for their neighbours, than from looking at the cases only according to their merits.

14290. The population of Dewsbury is very much manufacturing?—Yes, of the union it is; we have townships, which are partly agricultural.

14291. What are the manufactures?—Woollen chiefly, different kinds of woollen.

14292. Those manufactories are liable to the fluctuations which are common to trade, and exposed occasionally to have a vast number of persons thrown suddenly

suddenly out of employment, are they not?—It is the case, that great numbers are thrown out of employment by depression of trade.

14293. In circumstances of that sort, do you think that a board of guardians and a relieving-officer, by the sort of superintendence which they can give, would enable you to deal more satisfactorily with a large number of persons so situated, than they can now?—I do not see why it should not.

14294. Supposing that should occur at Dewsbury, which we understand to have occurred at Nottingham, that from the depression of trade vast numbers of persons should for a considerable time be out of employment, and that the workhouses within the union should not be sufficient to receive all the applicants, and that it should be necessary to have recourse, as subsidiary to the workhouse, to some out-door labour; do not you think that the board of guardians, with the support of the Assistant-commissioner, and the assistance of intelligent paid officers, in the shape of relieving-officers, will give you greater means of dealing with such a state of things than you have now?—I am persuaded that it will be so; I never contemplated that we shall be able to do without out-door relief altogether.

14295. Has it been proposed, in the unions that have been established in your neighbourhood, that you should begin to act upon the peremptory rule of refusing out-door relief to the able-bodied?—I am not aware.

14296. Are you aware of the rule which has been issued by Mr. Power, to his unions in the manufacturing district?—No, I am not.

14297. You are not aware that that rule does not preclude the guardians from exercising a discretion upon any case?—No; I should presume that it does not.

14298. The Committee may take it to be your opinion, that there is nothing in the character of the population of Dewsbury, or the circumstances of that union, which should make it inexpedient to introduce the new law?—That is my opinion, but the great majority of the people are of a contrary opinion.

14299. What is the apprehension generally entertained upon that subject?—People, I believe, have got wrong notions upon the matter; the great cry is, "No Commissioners and no Bastiles"; those are the great bugbears that stare them in the face; they have a notion that no out-door relief is to be given.

14300. If by experience it should appear that the Commissioners allow a reasonable extent of discretion to the boards of guardians, and that with respect to the workhouses every comfort is provided for the inmates by a sufficiency of food and good clothing and shelter, and if the board of guardians continue to exercise a discretion with regard to administering out-door relief, under the circumstances of that particular neighbourhood, do you think that those apprehensions would by degrees wear away?—I think they would.

14301. Have you any experience of the establishment of any union for the purpose of administering relief in your neighbourhood?—I have not.

14302. You are not acquainted with what has been the effect of the administration of relief at Bradford?—No.

14303. Mr. *Miles.*] In case of a vast number of the population of Dewsbury being thrown out of employ, have you been in the habit of applying any test for the destitution of the poor?—In the township of Mirfield we do that as much as we can; but still we find difficulties in providing that test, in finding the labour and also in getting it performed.

14304. What test have you made use of generally?—To give labour to able-bodied paupers.

14305. *Chairman.*] How do you superintend that labour?—There is the difficulty.

14306. Mr. *Miles.*] You have not used the workhouse as the test heretofore?—Not for the able-bodied persons.

14307. Do you conceive it essential that there should be some mode by which you should test their destitution?—Yes, either labour or the workhouse; but I think that labour might be made a good test.

14308. *Chairman.*] And you think, under the new system, that you would have a better means of superintending that labour?—Yes; because we might provide labour; and when many persons in the several townships were out of employment, we might employ a competent person to look after them, in the same way that I should employ a person to overlook labourers of my own.

14309. Where the number of labourers was greater, it would naturally be more easy for you to hire superintendents to see that it was done?—Yes.

14310. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Among the objections to the new Poor Law, have any been

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been stated as arising out of the bastardy regulations?—There are objections made.

14311. Have you yourself considered that subject?—I have.

14312. Are you of opinion that the alteration made in the new law is beneficial to morality?—I cannot say much upon that point; I do not think it has had any material effect.

14313. Has it occurred to you to consider the subject with a view to the humanity of the question, of throwing the burden wholly upon the woman and relieving the man?—My opinion is, that the law, as regards the woman, is very good; I should not wish it to be altered; give her no interest whatever in the amount that may be paid by the man. It is a question with me, and in fact I should recommend, that after the woman has had one bastard child, there should be the power of committing her as a lewd woman: as to the man, I should certainly make him pay in all cases, and more according to his means, but I would give the woman no interest whatever in that money; I would also re-enact the power of commitment, as to the man, for non-payment; I would make it incumbent upon him to pay the money without demand; I would give the power of commitment for short periods, not exceeding a month; and I would never discharge him from the payment by commitment: it seems to me a hard case, that while an independent labourer, or any man marrying, and having a child, is bound to maintain it, a man having a bastard child is not; it should be a committal for neglect of family. I consider the present mode of obtaining orders in bastardy to be of no avail.

14314. Do you consider it a hardship, as the law now stands, that such evidence of confirmation of the woman's story is required to be given, as it is difficult to obtain?—No, I do not think there is much in that in practice.

14315. Has it never occurred to you as unreasonable, that when a man may be put upon trial for his life, upon the evidence of a woman, without confirmation, depending wholly upon her credibility, any further confirmation should be required for the purposes of affiliation?—There is no question it is a hardship, because, at all times, the question would be for the justices to say, looking at the way in which the woman gave her evidence, whether she was speaking the truth.

14316. You would recommend, as giving an additional motive for believing the woman, that she should have no allowance for the maintenance of her child?—None; but such relief as she would get if she were a widow with a child.

14317. She was always subject to commitment, and, in addition to that, you would give her no power of obtaining allowance from the father of the child?—No.

14318. But you would make a distinction between the first and other children? I should not wish a woman to be committed for the first child, because that might arise from seduction.

14319. And in all cases you would think it unjust to relieve the father from the maintenance of the child?—I think it impolitic.

14320. Mr. *Miles.*] Do not you think it likely, as the law now stands, to lead to considerable burden upon the parish if he is relieved?—Certainly; because there may be idiot children born; the mother may die when they are young, and there is nothing but the parish to maintain them, though the man may be worth 1,000*l.* a year.

14321. *Chairman.*] Have you any other statement which you wish to make?—The assistant-overseer now may be at any time dismissed by the majority of the inhabitants; that, I think, may prevent him from discharging his duty as he ought to do; I think he ought not to be discharged, except for neglect of duty or improper conduct in his office.

14322. Do you not think that the appointment and dismissal of the assistant-overseers should vest in the board of guardians?—Not in them without control.

14323. Would you place the appointment and dismissal of assistant-overseer upon the same footing as any other officer to be appointed and dismissed by the board of guardians, subject to the approval of the Commissioners?—Certainly, and I apply that to all appointments, whether made by guardians or justices; I think that wholesome control is of service.

14324. Is there any other point upon which you wish to give evidence?—There is one clause in the Act which has struck me, which gives persons voting in elections, under the new Poor Law, the power of voting without having paid their rates for six months; that is extraordinary, because, strictly speaking, we ought

to

to make a rate for only three months; the difficulty is this: a person comes to vote, and if one or more rates have been made within six months, he can vote without paying those rates; if during that time the assistant-overseer should call upon me as a justice to sign a new rate, I should ask him, "Have you collected the arrears?" and if he had not, I should inquire why he had not taken steps to do so, and I should object to sign the rate; while the Act, by allowing parties to vote, seems to give them the right to be in arrear for six months.

14325. What would you propose?—I would allow no man to vote unless he had paid up all his rates.

14326. Is there any other point?—With respect to small tenements, I think that owners ought to be liable to the payment of the rates.

14327. Under what sum?—Under 6*l.* a year in our district.

14328. Mr. *Freshfield.*] On the other hand, do you not think that there is an advantage in giving the poor an interest in the administration of the rates?—I do not think it works so; it would make no difference in the end, because the landlord does pay the rates now; and there would be a very great saving in the collection of our rates; one of our rates is now collected for 10*l.*, which I am sure would be collected for 4*l.* if the landlord paid the rates.

14329. Mr. *Bolling.*] Would you make any allowance to those landlords who paid the rates?—Not any great allowance.

14330. You would hold out some inducement, would you not, to them to pay the rates?—I should make it compulsory upon the landlords.

14331. *Chairman.*] Would you not make some allowance?—I do not know that I should.

14332. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Does it appear to you that this would be a discouragement to the more liberal landlords, who do not build cottages for the purpose of profit?—I do not think it would have any effect upon that, or it would have a good effect, because I know in some townships now where the rates are not collected from the poor, there is a tendency to build cottages, the owners saying, "I will let you this free from rates;" and when the overseer goes to him he will not pay the rates, and the tenant has to pay the extra rent and rates also.

14333. Your evidence applies more to the populous and manufacturing districts than to the agricultural?—Yes, it applies with more force to the manufacturing districts, because where they have one cottage we have 100.

14334. You have not any experience of landlords having 20 or 30 cottages, for which they receive a nominal rent of 1*s.* a year?—No; we have nothing of that.

FORTY-SECOND REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*,
13 *June* 1838.

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FORTY-THIRD

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
15 *June* 1838.

501.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

15 *June* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Mr. *Thomas William Overman* - - - - p. 1 & 17

Mr. *James Turner* - - - - - - - p. 17

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

Veneris, 15° *die Junii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Miles.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.	Mr. Scrope.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Thomas William Overman*, called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *T. W. Overman.*

15 June 1838.

14335. Mr. *Fielden.*] YOU have stated that there are more men employed upon the farms since the new Poor Law came into operation?—Yes, I have.

14336. Is there a considerable increase in the number employed upon the farms?—There is an increase.

14337. Is the increase very considerable?—There are more men employed, and there is considerably more money laid out on the farms; I read letters from twelve farmers, giving an account of their expenditure of money in the last three years, and there was an increase in all, I believe.

14338. And the labourers received more wages, in the proportion that 9*s.* bears to 8*s.*?—Yes.

14339. *Chairman.*] Is it not more than that proportion, as all the remuneration now is paid in wages?—Yes.

14340. And formerly it was paid in wages and poor-rates?—The surveyor paid some; he employed some on the road.

14341. The head-money prevailed in some of the parishes?—Yes.

14342. That system was, making up the wages out of the poor-rates?—Yes.

14343. The men being in the employment of the farmers?—Yes.

14344. And therefore to that extent the additional wages would be greater than any sum measured by the difference between 8*s.* and 9*s.*?—Yes.

14345. Mr. *Fielden.*] You stated that the number of men that you employ upon your farm is 26?—It is.

14346. Had you a less number than that upon your farm before the new law?—I had.

14347. How many fewer in number?—I think five or six; all this last winter I have had more men than I had in 1834.

14348. Do you know the amount of wages you paid in 1834, and the amount of wages you paid in 1837?—I have not got it for 1834; I have for 1835.

14349. Will you state the number of men you have employed in both years, and the amount of wages you paid?—I will not charge my memory with what number I had in 1834; I have more men now, but I cannot speak positively to the number, whether it is four, five or six.

14350. Mr. *Baines.*] Did you not say that you had some returns from other farmers of the rate of wages that they had paid in successive years?—I did, which I put in in my former examination, from 12 farmers.

14351. And the result of that was to show that they have paid more since the new Poor Law has come into operation than they did before?—It was.

14352. Mr. *Fielden.*] It appears, from your answer to that question, that you had written to different farmers to obtain information upon that subject?—I did.

14353. Did you take the same pains to inform yourself as to what have been your payments, and your employment of men, at the same periods?—I did.

14354. Cannot you state it?—I thought I had it for 1834, but I have not it; in 1835 I paid 803 *l.*, and in 1837 I paid 863 *l.*

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14355. Do you know the number of men that you employed in 1835?—No, I do not.

14356. The number of men you employed in 1837 you have stated to be 26?—Yes.

14357. In 1837, it appears from your answer, that you paid 60 *l.* more than you did in 1835; how many more men could you employ with that 60 *l.* additional?—Then will come the question, what the wages were in 1835, before you can ascertain that; I think that wages were less in 1835; the wages were not more than 8 *s.*, which would make a greater sum paid in wages; I will not speak positively, but I can refer to that.

14358. Will you turn to your notes, and state what the wages were?—The wages were 8 *s.*

14359. If then you employ 26 men, a shilling a week advance would be 26 *s.*, and 26 *s.* for 52 weeks would more than absorb the 60 *l.* that you have paid as increase?—I dare say it would.

14360. Then could you have more men employed in 1837 than you had in 1834?—I had more men certainly, but I have not the exact figures; had I had the least hint that I should have been asked the question I would have brought up my farming-books.

14361. But you have statements from the other farmers?—And therefore I left out my own.

14362. Did you not think that the Committee would be better satisfied with the statement of your own wages than with any information obtained by you from others?—No; I thought being interested myself that it would have been better to leave out my own case.

14363. You state that you employed more men in 1837 than you did in 1835; and you also state that you paid them higher wages, by 1 *s.* a week, in 1837 than you did in 1835?—That is the general rate of wages, but my men do not all work by the day; there is task-work, and there might be more task-work in 1835 than in 1837.

14364. In the sum that you say you have paid, you have given in the total amount you have paid for task-work and day-work, have you not?—I have.

14365. The difference between 1835 and 1837, according to your statement, is 60 *l.*?—Yes.

14366. How could you employ more men in 1837 than in 1835, and pay them higher wages by the sum you state, out of a difference of 60 *l.* in the gross expenditure of the two years?—If I had my farming-book I could go over it and give a positive answer, but till I have that I shall decline giving a positive answer.

14367. Here is a plain simple question before the Committee; you say you paid 60 *l.* more in 1837 than you did in 1835, and you employed more men in 1837 than in 1835, and that you gave them an advance of wages in 1837?—I say that wages were higher in 1837 than in 1835.

14368. Will you reconcile the two statements?—Till I have my books I cannot do it; I will give you the names of the men when I have the books.

14369. You can give the number of the men, and the wages you paid to each individual man?—Yes, when I have the books; sometimes they are working eight, nine and ten, and as many as thirteen in a company.

14370. Will you bring up on Tuesday, or the next time the Committee meets, the number of men you employed in 1835, the number you employed in 1837, and the gross wages you paid to the total number of men in both years?—Yes.

14371. *Chairman.*] When you say that wages were generally a shilling a week more in 1837 than they were in 1835, do you mean the day-labourers?—The price of labour was lower in part of 1835, but not in all of 1835; the wages of 1834 and part of 1835 were 8 *s.*, and then there was an advance.

14372. The wages are now 9 *s.*?—Yes.

14373. That applies to men who were paid by the day or the week?—Yes.

14374. But you employ a considerable number of labourers, do you not?—Yes.

14375. Some of them work by task?—Yes.

14376. Are some of them boys?—Yes.

14377. In case of those who work by task-work, and of the boys, do you mean that in those cases the labour is increased by a shilling a week?—The boys never work by the great; the boys are employed by the week.

14378. Are

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14378. Are the boys' wages increased?—Yes, we advance them as they get up in years; they become, of course, worth more.

14379. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you mean that in the year 1837 a boy who is 16 years of age would receive more wages than a boy who was of the same age in 1835?—I have no doubt of it, and there is an advance of wages in the neighbourhood; I am borne out in that by the table which I alluded to before; I will take the Westoning table; this is the document put in by Mr. Turner. There are the wages given of 48 men; in 1834 they earned 445*l.* 6*s.*, which was an average of 8*s.* 4½*d.* a week; and in 1837, the wages, as stated in that table, averaged 9*s.* 5¾*d.* in the parish of Westoning. This is from calculations put in by Mr. Turner. That was paid for labour alone, and there was more work in Westoning in 1837 by 547 weeks, and the money received for that 547 weeks was 260*l.* 2*s.*, averaging 9*s.* 5¾*d.* per week.

14380. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Have you any means of showing whether there was more task-work in 1837 than in 1834 or less?—I believe there was one letter which I read to the Committee about task-work in answer to question 11,374, from Mr. Swaffield; one gentleman, Mr. Trustram, said that he did not think the quantity of task-work was more.

14381. In your own case, have you more task-work?—I do a great deal by task-work, but whether it was more in 1837 than in 1834 I cannot say; all that I can do by task-work I do.

14382. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you think the statement contained in that table is correct as to the wages of the labourers there named?—This is the statement put in of the actual earnings, therefore I base my calculations upon this table.

14383. That shows an increase of earnings in 1837 as compared with 1834?—It does.

14384. You believe that to be correct?—I do not impugn that statement at all, and I suppose it is an accurate document; it was put in as such.

14385. That shows a diminution of income in 1837 as compared with 1834, does it not?—Yes.

14386. Do you believe that part of the table?—I do not.

14387. What is your reason for disbelieving that?—Because it has not given the earnings of the families correctly; it has given the earnings of the men correctly, I believe, or nearly so.

14388. Have you any reason to doubt that the earnings of the men have been taken correctly in both cases?—I cannot say; I have not had an opportunity of checking the thing.

14389. But you refer to that table to show that there was an increase in the wages paid in 1837 from the wages paid in 1834?—Yes; I think I have a right to use that table, it having been put in evidence.

14390. If you believe the statement for 1837, have you any reason to believe the statement for 1834, as regards the men, leaving out the families?—It may be right, but I have not any data of the earnings of the families, by which I could test that.

14391. In answer to question 11374, you give the names of individual farmers from whom you received information; one is Mr. Crouch, who states the wages he paid to be, in 1835, 419*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*; in 1837 he states the wages he paid to be 440*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*; had there been a rise in the wages between 1835 and 1837 on Mr. Crouch's farm?—I have no doubt that Mr. Crouch did as other people did, and advanced wages in 1837.

14392. If he employed the same number of men in 1837 as he did in 1835, the sum he had to pay in the last year would be more than in the first?—Yes.

14393. I find, from your statement given in, that Mr. Crouch paid 419*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.* in 1835, and in 1837 he paid 440*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, being a difference of 21*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; could Mr. Crouch employ more men at advanced wages with the addition of only 21*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*?—I never said that Mr. Crouch did employ more men; I do not know that he did; I can only speak to the money that Mr. Crouch paid, but whether he had more men or not I cannot say.

14394. *Chairman.*] Does Mr. Crouch in his letter say whether he employed more men or not?—No.

14395. Mr. *Fielden.*] If Mr. Crouch paid only 21*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* in 1837 more than he did in 1835, and was giving an advance of wages in 1837 upon what he had paid in 1835, would he not have a less number of men?—I will not say yes or no to that question, till I can test it.

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14396. Can you not make the calculation?—I have not got the calculation; I do not know what wages he paid.

14397. *Chairman.*] Would it not depend in some degree upon whether the men employed by Mr. Crouch were employed by day or task?—Yes; it would depend upon the number on the farm; whether there were more men employed upon the farm or not, I cannot say.

14398. Mr. *Fielden.*] Mr. Crouch is a farmer and employs a considerable number of men?—He is one of our best farmers.

14399. Do you know the number of men that he employed in 1835 or in 1837?—I do not.

14400. And his letter does not state any thing upon that subject?—It does not; the purport of my letter to him was, to ask him whether he had paid more money for labour, and requesting him to send me the particulars of the amount of money he had paid in 1835, 1836 and 1837; some farmers make their years up to Michaelmas, and others up to Lady-day, just as they enter upon their farms, and all the farmers' years do not close at the exact same day.

14401. You have just stated to the Committee that a great many more men were employed upon the farms in 1837 than were employed in 1834?—Yes, I can give an instance from the Westoning table, it shows an increase of 760 weeks' employment.

14402. You wish to confirm your statement by the Westoning table?—I take it from the account put in; I take it from what Mr. Turner puts in, because I believe it, from seeing the men at work as I go through the parish.

14403. Does Mr. Turner say that more men were employed?—Mr. Turner says that there were 760 weeks more employment.

14404. That would be a considerable advantage to the farmers, would it not?—It would.

14405. Would it be any advantage to the labourers unless they obtained more wages?—They did obtain more wages.

14406. *Chairman.*] What were the wages that they obtained in 1834, according to the table put in by Mr. Turner, and what were the wages they obtained in 1837?—According to that table, they received 8*s.* 4½*d.* a week in 1834.

14407. In 1834 the sum paid in wages was 445*l.* 6*s.*?—Yes.

14408. What was the sum paid in wages in the year 1837?—Eight hundred and twenty-three pounds nineteen shillings and sixpence, making a difference of 378*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

14409. Mr. *Fielden.*] Were there any employed on the railroad?—There was 213 weeks' employment, producing 118*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, leaving 260*l.* 2*s.* for labour employed upon the farms in Westoning, averaging 9*s.* 5¾*d.* per week for the 547 weeks.

14410. Does that table give the number of men that were employed in the two years?—I believe it does; it is a table professing to be of 48 labourers.

14411. Will that increase of the wages show that there were more men employed?—I take the number of weeks; there is a number of weeks; it is a table professing to be a table of 48 men, and I will suppose the labour was divided among the 48 in 1837, and in the same way in 1834.

14412. *Chairman.*] What is the number of weeks that those men were employed in 1834?—Twenty-two, on an average in the year.

14413. What was the number in 1837?—Thirty-eight.

14414. Then was there not, to the extent of the difference between 22 and 38, an additional quantity of employment upon the farms in a latter year?—There was 16 weeks more labour for each man.

14415. Mr. *Baines.*] Do you think that this alteration was owing to the improved administration of the Poor Law, or to any other cause?—To the new law.

14416. To that solely?—To that solely; it is a gratifying sight now to go through Westoning to see the number of men that are employed.

14417. In addition to those increased wages, what is the effect as to the disposition existing between the master and the labourers?—Much better, for I can turn to an entry made in 1834; I find in September 1834 there is this entry in the parish books: "William Hines received for ale that Jackson and Marlow had at different times, when they were watching in the night, 1*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*"

14418. *Chairman.*] What book are you reading from?—The last year of the Westoning

Westoning overseers' book; the next entry in the book is "James Jackson, for beer that Jackson had at different times, when he was keeping watch over the parish, 18*s.* 8*d.*"

14419. What is meant by watching?—It was necessary to have men night and day watching, in order to keep the farmers' property secure.

14420. Is there any thing of that kind necessary now?—No; those men were receiving 12*s.* a week to keep watch.

14421. Mr. *Baines.*] Are there any such entries in the parish-books since the establishment of the unions?—None such are required; the people are peaceable and quiet.

14422. Are there any persons employed in that capacity at all?—There are not; it was necessary before the new law to have watchmen in many of the parishes in Bedfordshire, and there are none now.

14423. For what purpose did you say that the watchmen were there?—For the protection of the property; one farmer told me that when he lived at Westoning he displeased the men, and his ploughs were cut in two.

14424. Do you attribute the alteration to an improved disposition in the men towards their masters?—I do.

14425. And that alteration derived from their making more money, and being able to maintain their families in greater comfort?—I do.

14426. *Chairman.*] Do you not also very much attribute it to the alteration of habits, from the practice of putting men in gravel-pits, and keeping them in numbers together doing nothing and idling away their time, as contrasted with the more regular occupation that they now obtain at farmer's work?—Certainly I do.

14427. Mr. *Fielden.*] In this table the money obtained by the men in wages for work upon the farms, and also in parish relief, is shown to exceed the sum they obtained in wages in 1837, notwithstanding they did this increased quantity of work upon the farms?—I think a very little more; they come very near indeed; the sum paid in 1837 is more than that paid in 1834, taking the wages and the parish-rates too; if you will put the parish-rates paid in 1837 with the sum paid for labour in 1837, it is 9*l.* more; in the summary you will find, in 1834 the sum is 445*l.* 6*s.* paid for labour in Westoning, and from the parish 404*l.* 4*s.*, making together 849*l.* 10*s.*; in 1837 there are 823*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, and 34*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* from the parish-books, making together 858*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

14428. That is including the wages and the parish relief in both years?—Yes.

14429. And including the additional sums received for harvest months?—Yes, in both cases.

14430. If you take from what they received in 1837 the sum that was paid for work done on the railroad, will that not show a diminution in the sum expended upon the farms in Westoning?—I think not, because in 1834 there was 404*l.*, not expended upon the farms, but expended upon the gravel-pit.

14431. But, in some way or other, the labourers received that amount of money?—Yes; they received it for doing nothing.

14432. If you subtract from the sum received by the labourers in parochial allowance and in wages for work in 1834, the amount they received on the railroad, will not that show a diminution in the income of the labourers in 1837, as compared with 1834?—It does.

14433. How much is the diminution in 1837, as compared with 1834?—I think it will be about 140*l.*

14434. Had not those labourers an increased number of children to support in 1837, as compared with 1834?—There was an increase, it appears.

14435. *Chairman.*] Does it appear that they had an increased number to support?—That does not follow.

14436. Some of those children might be able to support themselves, or to do something towards their maintenance, in 1837?—Yes.

14437. Mr. *Fielden.*] There would be some children born in the three years; would not the number born in those three years exceed the number that would become able to provide for themselves?—I do not think it would; three years make an astonishing difference in the capabilities of the children to earn.

14438. But the income of the labourers, as shown in that table, being diminished to the amount of 140*l.*, how do you reconcile that with your statement of

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the labourers being better off?—I take it from the number of weeks' employment; that there was, in 1834, for a certain number of men, a certain sum of money paid, and in 1837 there was a certain sum of money paid, and I find the men received more in 1837 than they did in 1834; but if I go to the earnings likewise, I will admit that there were more children born, and some also have grown old enough to earn something in the latter year; but it appears, from this table, that in 1834 the earnings of the family were 197*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, and in the year 1837, with the children three years older, there is a diminution of 8*s.* 4*d.*, and with the capability of the children earning a considerable deal more money.

14439. Leaving out the children at present, and confining yourself to the labourers, with 140*l.* less of income?—But they had not that diminution, for the actual sum received by the labourers of Westoning was 823 *l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*

14440. But taking out the amount received at the railroad?—But I do not think I have any right to take out the amount received at the railroad.

14441. *Chairman.*] The earnings obtained at the railroad were included in their income, and formed part of their income, did they not?—Yes.

14442. Mr. *Fielden.*] But in former answers you have been endeavouring to show that more labourers were employed upon the farms; those employed upon the railroad in 1837 could not be on the farm at the same time?—No, they could not; but still I am borne out by the table, for the men in 1834 had 22 weeks' employment, on the average, and in 1837 they had 38 weeks.

14443. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Forty-eight men, at 22 weeks, would be 1056; 48 men, at 38 weeks would be 1824 weeks; deducting 1056 from 1824, there will be a surplus of 768; dividing that by 52 weeks will show that there were 14 labourers and 40 weeks addition, in 1837?—Yes.

14444. Mr. *Fielden.*] You make the number of weeks' additional employment to be 768?—Yes.

14445. Do not you also make the sum paid by the farmers to those labourers, taking out the amount they received from the railroad, to be less by 140*l.*?—There was less money paid in the parish certainly, but the men received more, because they went where work was, as a man is bound to do.

14446. They got more money, in some way or other?—Yes, by going to the railroad they did, as it is their duty to do.

14447. Did they get more work and more wages for that work on the farms in 1837 than they did in 1834?—They received, in the gross, more money for their work than they received in 1834 for their week's work.

14448. Did they receive more money for the same week's work in 1837 than in 1834?—If there is any truth in figures, they did.

14449. Because their wages were somewhat raised?—I do not say how it was, but they did receive more.

14450. This additional number of weeks' labour on the land would be a great advantage to some one, whether the labourers participated in it or not?—There is no doubt the labourers would participate in it; the master cannot receive a benefit without the men participating in it.

14451. Do the men receive a benefit in every instance where the master does?—I think in every instance, if the master is a liberal man; we generally pay our labourers wages more than we can afford them.

14452. I wish to refer you to Mr. Eve, of Silsoe, of whose wages you gave in a statement; I find that Mr. Eve, of Silsoe, paid in 1834, according to your statement, 360*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*; in 1837 he paid 383 *l.* 3*s.*; that will be an increased expenditure of something less than 23*l.*?—Yes, 23*l.*, within 4*s.* or 5*s.*

14453. How many more men can Mr. Eve employ?—I do not know.

14454. But, if he were giving more wages by one-eighth, could he employ any increased number of men at all?—He paid more money; I did not ask him for the number of men he did employ, and he does not give it.

14455. But there is no difficulty in deciding whether, if he paid 9*s.* instead of 8*s.* a week, he could have employed more men or not?—He might have paid more in 1834 than 8*s.*; I do not know what wages he paid his men; some farmers gave their men 9*s.* that year, and some gave them 8*s.*

14456. Then the wages were 9*s.* in 1834?—Some men paid 9*s.*; I do not undertake to say that all did not, but I give you an instance of a farmer who did not.

14457. Have you not before stated, that the wages generally, in Bedfordshire, have

have been raised from 8*s.* to 9*s.* a week?—They have been, but there were exceptions.

14458. If they have been raised from 8*s.* to 9*s.*, the same number of men would require a greater sum to pay them?—Of course they would.

14459. And with the sum of 23*l.* additional to 360*l.* could Mr. Eve employ a greater number of men in 1837 than he did in 1834?—I really cannot say; here is an increased sum of money paid, and I cannot answer to the number of men that he had; I can only speak to the amount of money that he has given me as having been spent upon his farm in the two years.

14460. I find that in the same return there is Mr. Bennett's amount of expenditure given in 1834, 1835, 1836 and 1837; in question 11377 you state that in 1835 Mr. Bennett paid 671*l.* in wages?—Yes; in 1834 he paid 590*l.*

14461. In 1837 he paid 699*l.*?—He did.

14462. What Mr. Bennett is that?—Mr. Bennett of Beckering's-park.

14463. Is he a farmer?—He is.

14464. Does he employ a good many men?—Yes.

14465. Do you know the number of men he employed in 1834, 1835, 1836 and 1837?—No, I do not.

14466. How many more men could Mr. Bennett employ, with the advance of wages that has taken place in Bedfordshire?—I do not know; he has given me the amount of wages paid in each year.

14467. But you have stated that there is a much larger number employed on the farms than there were in 1834 or 1835; will you state the farmers that do employ more men?—In 1834 there were a considerable number of men in all the parishes out of work, and in 1837 there were none out of work, and men were absorbed in labour somehow; and I judge upon the farms, and I have a right to assume upon the farms, the farmers being the principal employers of the men.

14468. If the farmers, or any one of the farmers, employed more men, and payed them higher wages in 1837 than in 1834, their accounts would show an increased expenditure in wages, would it not?—Of course.

14469. Can you point out any one farmer that employs more men in 1837 than he did in 1834?—I never asked them that question; I wrote to ask them the amount of money spent upon their farms, and that they have given to me.

14470. If you have never asked that question of any one, how are you able to make the statement, that there were a greater number of men employed in 1837 upon the farms than in 1834?—For this reason; in going through the parishes I see more men about the fields than formerly, and I presume that they are at work, and I have seen them at work.

14471. Did you go about in 1834 as much as in 1837?—I often drive round the parishes.

14472. And seeing more men in 1837 than in 1834, you are quite certain there were more men employed in 1837 than in 1834?—As far as my sight goes, I am convinced of it.

14473. The wages having risen, there must have been an increased expenditure in the wages of those men?—Yes.

14474. Does Mr. Crouch, or does Mr. Eve, or does Mr. Bennett, whose expenditure on their farms you have given, show that there had been more men employed, and upon higher wages too?—They show that there has been an increased amount of money spent upon their farms.

14475. Were there more men employed?—I cannot answer for those gentlemen.

14476. Will you state any farmer in Bedfordshire who employed more men in 1837 than he employed in 1834?—I do myself employ more men.

14477. You have stated that you in 1835 paid 803*l.*?—I will bring up the account next Tuesday.

14478. In the statement you have given of your own expenditure in 1835, you say you paid 803*l.*, and in 1837, 863*l.*; in 1835 you paid 8*s.* a week, and in 1837 you paid 9*s.* a week; how many more men could you have employed in 1837 than you employed in 1835?—I have not made a calculation.

14479. Could you employ any more men in 1837 than in 1835, and only pay those sums?—I do not see why I should not, because I do not tell you what the men earned, but I will show what the men earned, and the number of men.

14480. You have stated that you paid 803*l.* in 1834, and 863*l.* in 1837, that you

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you paid 8*s.* a week in 1835 and 9*s.* a week in 1837, and you say with 60*l.* greater expenditure you could employ more men upon your farm?—Yes, I do say so.

14481. *Chairman.*] Explain how that takes place; a part of those men are probably employed at task-work?—The greater part of them.

14482. Therefore the additional shilling that you pay in wages will not have to be divided among those men employed?—No.

14483. The additional shilling will be to those who work at so much a week?—Yes.

14484. Will that be a large proportion?—No; the earnings of my men averaged in the last week 12*s.*

14485. But many of them were probably working by the great?—Yes.

14486. When, therefore, any observation is made upon the number of persons you employ and the amount of wages you have given, if you say that you give an additional shilling a week, that observation would apply only to those whom you hire by the week?—Only to them.

14487. Would those bear a large proportion to the whole number of your labourers?—They would not.

14488. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you say that the average wages of your men amounted last week to 12*s.*?—Yes.

14489. How many men had you employed last week?—Twenty-six.

14490. What were the wages of the man who received the least and of the man who received the most?—The highest was 19*s.* 6*d.* and the lowest was 9*s.*

14491. Who was the man that received 19*s.* 6*d.*?—A man who has been mentioned in this Committee, and something has been said about his family being a distressed family — John Cooper; Mr. Crabtree brought before the Committee a very pleasing account of his furniture; but if Mr. Crabtree had told the Committee the amount of the wages which that man has received from me it would have been a very different story; but he did not supply the addenda.

14492. *Chairman.*] In answer to question 8632 there is a "description of a cottage occupied by John Cooper, who worked for Mr. Overman of Maulden, and has done for 20 years; the outside of the cottage, that is the outer-wall, if it may be so called, is nearly down; the floor is a mud floor, with no tiles upon it; the window—there should be 32 diamond squares of glass, but there is only half that number; furniture—there is a table of two boards and a piece put together on four hedge-stakes;" and then there is a long description of the furniture; what do you know of the state of that man?—This is a very good description of his house and furniture.

14493. Has that man worked for you for 20 years?—He has worked ever since he came from being a soldier, and he earned 19*s.* 6*d.* last week; and I would make a bet of all my property that to-morrow he has no dinner, though he earned 19*s.* 6*d.* last week.

14494. To what do you attribute the distressed condition in which this man appears to live, he apparently being in the receipt of good wages, and working constantly for you?—No man possesses a better labourer than he is, but he and his wife will go to-morrow night and get drunk; he has a feast-day and a fast-day.

14495. He has been working for you all this time?—Yes, always.

14496. And generally at good wages?—I have only one man upon my farm who earns as much as this man.

14497. Does he work by task-work?—He earns more by task-work than any man I have got; I will state one circumstance about him. One harvest time when I went into the field the men were laughing; I said, "What is the matter? something pleases you;" and one of them said, "Oh, sir, you would have been pleased if you had been here—John Cooper's wife brought him a pudding, and when he cut it in two his wife's snuff-box was in the middle of it; and he said, 'What have you got here?' and she said, 'La, John, it is my snuff-box; I have looked for my snuff-box all over the town and could not find it;'" I said, "Did he eat the pudding?" "O, yes! he ate it and enjoyed it:" quicker children than theirs to earn any thing it is impossible to find, for they can make lace or plait, and the woman is capable of teaching them; but there is not a more distressed family in the parish of Maulden.

14498. Mr. *Fielden.*] This John Cooper is a good workman?—Yes, the best I have.

14499. They

14499. They are not all bad workmen who get drunk?—No; I think a poor man has a right to spend his money as he likes, if he provides for his family.

14500. Do many brew their own beer?—No, the cottages are too small for that.

14501. The price of barley has fallen considerably since 1824?—It has.

14502. Would it not be an advantage to the farmer if the labourers drank a little more beer?—If there was a greater consumption the article would rise.

14503. If the labourers had better wages they would drink more beer?—Yes, and it is the labourers that eat our beef and mutton, and not the gentlemen.

14504. You have then a personal interest in the welfare of the men?—No doubt; the welfare of the men is the welfare of the masters.

14505. If the labourers could obtain a rise of wages, so as to be greater consumers of the produce of the soil, you think that would be an advantage to the farmers in Bedfordshire?—If the farmer was in a situation to give more; but he cannot give more than the manufacturer, or any body else.

14506. Can you give a reason why the farmer cannot give more wages?—There is a depreciation in farming produce.

14507. Are you aware that one of the Poor Law Assistant-commissioners has stated that farming has not been so prosperous for a great many years as in 1837?—I confirm that.

14508. Then in 1837 the farmers were able to pay better wages than in 1834?—They were, for this reason: they were enabled to lay out a considerable deal of money upon their lands; there is no doubt the labour was absorbed, and there has been a greater return for the labour, thereby benefiting all classes of the community; the farmer sold his article at a lower price in 1837 than in 1834, and yet he has been able to give his labourers more wages, and to spend more money upon his farm.

14509. Do you think that the labourers whom you employ have a greater command over the necessaries of life now than they had in 1834?—The men live well and look well; and the proof of the pudding, according to the old saying, is in the eating.

14510. Will you describe the food on which they live?—I often see them with bread and meat; nearly all of them I see, with the exception of this John Cooper, with meat with their bread.

14511. *Chairman.*] It has been described to the Committee that the labourers in Bedfordshire are gradually wasting away in strength, and that they stagger from their work at night like drunken men, and appear to be quite unequal to the ordinary work of labourers; have you, in your experience as a farmer, observed any thing of the sort?—On the contrary, I contend that the labouring classes are in a better condition than they ever have been; I see it in the man and in the family; and any person may see it who goes to church; the neat and clean appearance that they have is quite different from what it used to be.

14512. Confining your observations to your own labourers, have you many labourers who have worked for you for the last three years?—Most of my men have worked for me for the 24 years that I have been in the county of Bedford.

14513. At all events, several have worked for you for the last three years?—Yes.

14514. Confining your attention to those, do you observe any thing in their physical strength which indicates that their power of doing labour is wearing away, and that their constitutions are impaired?—Certainly not.

14515. Do you observe any thing in their appearance, or in their manner of doing their work, which shows that they are less capable of doing a day's work now than they were three years ago?—They are not.

14516. In point of fact, do those labourers who have worked for you for the last three years do the same amount of work that they did three years ago?—They do.

14517. Do they complain of it?—No, they do not; this morning I left home at half-past five; my men were all at work; my men have half done their day's work by seven; by 11 o'clock, I will undertake to say, that I shall not have a man working upon my farm; they go home and go to bed for a couple of hours, and then work in their gardens.

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14518. Have you ever heard from any farmers any observation tending to show that the strength of the people is impaired?—No.

14519. If, therefore, it has been said to this Committee, that the labourers now come staggering from their work, and that their strength is gradually wasting away, and that they are quite unequal to do the work that they were a few years ago, do you believe that to be an absurd and unfounded statement?—I do, in the strongest terms that it can be conveyed in.

14520. Do you believe that it has the slightest foundation in truth?—Not the least.

14521. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you turned your attention to the table that is put in of six labourers in the parish of Maulden, which appears in the Appendix to the Evidence of the 8th of May?—I have.

14522. The labourers named in this table for the parish of Maulden are William Fisher, Daniel Keach, William Robinson, Edward Cole, John Mossman and William Robinson; do you know those six labourers?—I do.

14523. William Fisher, it appears, had constant work in 1837, but not constant work in 1834; is that correct?—He had constant work in both years.

14524. Do you know that he was employed in constant work as a jobbing labourer in both years?—He was.

14525. In 1834 his wages are put down as 8*s.*, and in 1837 at 9*s.* a week?—Yes.

14526. Do you believe that to be correct?—I know it to be wrong as to 1837; I have not got it for 1834.

14527. What did he have in 1837?—Ten shillings a week; he earned 28*l.* by his harvest work and other work in that year.

14528. What did he earn in 1834?—I have not got that.

14529. You have nothing relative to 1834?—I have not.

14530. Do you know whom William Fisher works for?—I do.

14531. For whom?—For John Reed.

14532. And has done for four years?—Yes.

14533. Did you ask John Reed the amount of his wages for 1837?—I did.

14534. And for 1834?—Yes; and he had forgot; I have the family's earnings of William Fisher; the earnings of his family are given by Mr. Turner at 7*l.* 16*s.*; I make them 20*l.* 16*s.*, making altogether 48*l.* 16*s.*

14535. What were the earnings of his family in 1834, in the table?—seven pounds sixteen shillings.

14536. The same in 1834 as in 1837?—Yes.

14537. If the earnings of the family were 20*l.* in 1837, would they not be more in 1834 than 7*l.* 16*s.*?—I do not know, for this reason: the girl was only 11 years old in 1834, and she was 14 in 1837, and is able to earn 4*s.* a week.

14538. What would you estimate the earnings of the family in 1834?—I have no doubt that for 1834 there are only the wife's earnings given, and the man has got a good garden, so that he makes his rent every year of his orchard.

14539. He had a wife and three children in 1834, the oldest twelve the youngest one?—No; the girl is now fourteen and the other is eight, therefore they must have been eleven and five.

14540. What would the girl of 11 or 12, whichever she was in 1834, earn at straw-plaiting?—I cannot say whether she was set to work in that year.

14541. You know what she earned in 1837?—Yes.

14542. Can you not form an opinion what she would earn in 1834?—If she was set to work she would earn 2*s.*

14543. *Chairman.*] Were they all employed in 1834?—They were not, they were running about the parish; now you see them all employed; you see them sitting with their cottage doors open, and plaiting.

14544. Mr. *Fielden.*] It does not appear that William Fisher received any thing from the parish in 1834?—No, he did not.

14545. Then he would have the same inducement to work in 1834 as in 1837?—Yes, there might be in that case, but three years makes a great difference in the capabilities of the children.

14546. What would William Fisher's wife earn in 1834 and what in 1837?—In each year 3*s.* a week; this year she might earn 6*s.* a week, but I take them at only half; I put 4*l.* 12*s.* to 7*l.* 16*s.*, and it will leave the family 12*l.* 4*s.* more than is stated in the table.

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14547. If it is understated for 1837, it would be understated for 1834?—Yes, it would, but not to the same extent, perhaps, that it is now; the difference is in the earnings.

14548. To what extent?—I will give Mr. Turner the benefit of 4*l.* 12*s.* for the girl to earn, leaving a balance in my favour of 10*l.* in 1837 more than Mr. Turner has given.

14549. How do you make this family to earn 20*l.* in 1837?—In this way: the wife earns 3*s.* a week, the girl earns 4*s.*, and another young one earns 1*s.*; I might put it at this: the woman at 6*s.*, the girl at 5*s.*, and the boy at 1*s.* 6*d.*

14550. *Chairman.*] Is it that you know that they actually earn that, or is that an estimate of what they might earn, you knowing what they can do at plait, and what they get for it?—From the best information I can get, I understand that this woman gets 6*s.* a week for her plait, and for the girl's plait 5*s.*, and the boy's plait 1*s.* 6*d.*

14551. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know Daniel Keach?—I do; he works for me.

14552. What were his wages in 1834, and what were they in 1837?—I have them only for 1837; Daniel Keach trusses my hay all the winter, and he has a regular price; therefore, I believe, his wages will run near about in 1834 to what they are in 1837, because he works more by himself, perhaps, than any man I have got.

14553. What would be his wages for the two years?—It is stated that he earned 27*l.* 8*s.*, and 4*l.* for harvest; he received of me 32*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* last year; now this man declares that neither Mr. Turner nor any other man asked him his earnings, and how they got it he has no conception; but they assumed the thing, I suppose.

14554. *Chairman.*] You paid him last year 32*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* for his work?—Yes.

14555. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you pay him the same in 1834?—I dare say I did; there will be very little difference in his wages.

14556. You gave him the same prices in 1834 as in 1837?—Yes.

14557. Have you made no alteration in his wages?—No.

14558. He has not had his wages advanced?—He had very good wages in 1834, and he does not complain in 1837.

14559. What do you know of the family's earnings?—I know that they earned 11*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, from the woman.

14560. For what year?—One thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven; here it is given 7*l.* 16*s.*; the woman told me this herself, that her earnings are 1*s.* 8*d.* a week, for she makes 1*s.* 8*d.* a score for her plait, and she does a score a week; and I have no doubt that she does two scores, and I will give the reason for thinking that; but, taking her own statement, it makes her earnings 4*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*; the boy, 12 years old, 3*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*; a little girl, eight years of age, who, the woman tells me, does four score a week, at 8*d.* a score, I put down at 1*s.* 4*d.*, to be within bounds; that gives 3*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* for her, making 11*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* the family's earnings; that makes a difference of 8*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* between Mr. Turner's statement and my statement.

14561. *Chairman.*] Your statement being taken partly from the earnings which you actually paid, and partly from the statement you received from the woman?—Yes; and there is another thing—that this man had two fat pigs in his sty, which I would have given him 9*l.* for.

14562. For what purpose does he keep those pigs?—He eats a good deal of meat.

14563. Do you believe that he keeps them purely for the sake of manure?—Partly for manure, partly for profit, and partly for the supply of his family.

14564. Mr. *Fielden.*] Those cases were selected by Mr. Turner, and by those from whom he had information, as being a fair average statement of the labourers in Maulden; you do not wish the Committee to infer that Mr. Turner selected the worst cases?—I think that Mr. Turner went upon imperfect data when he gave in those tables; now I give the correct data.

14565. You are not aware of the source of information from which Mr. Turner received this?—No, I do not know what company Mr. Turner kept; I heard that he did not keep the best company, sometimes that he had some idle fellows about him.

14566. Did Mrs. Keach tell you that the earnings of herself and her children were 11*l.*?—She told me what they were a week, and I made the calculation.

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14567. Did you ask Mrs. Keach what the earnings of herself and family were in 1834?—She had forgot, she said; this woman is a good plaiter; the man occasionally draws straws for me, and prepares them for plaiting; I had some very good straws last year, and this man took a large supply, enough to last him some time; and the other day the woman told me she had plaited them all up; and therefore I am satisfied she must have done a great deal more plait than she has told me; and I might have doubled the earnings she has given me, and I should still have been within bounds.

14568. Did you ask Mrs. Keach whether she could recollect what she and her children had earned in 1834?—She could not recollect.

14569. Did she not recollect the price in 1834?—She had quite forgotten; but I will give Mr. Turner the benefit of 1834, when I can spare a few pounds that the man received from me.

14570. What children had she to plait in 1834?—Only one that was able to plait.

14571. What children had she able to plait in 1837?—She had only a boy who was plaiting in 1837, because the girl was only five years of age; I will not take her earnings as any thing; but I have no doubt that she is a very nice plaiter, or she could not have done four score a week; and this man keeps his family as respectable as any family in any town that you could go into.

14572. The oldest child is stated to be eight in 1834?—That may be so.

14573. Do you know William Robinson?—I do.

14574. Whom does he work for?—For Mr. Abbott.

14575. His wages in this table for 1834 are stated to be 10*s.* a week?—Yes; I find William Robinson in 1837 worked 52 weeks and received 29*l.* 6*s.*; he is stated in the table to have earned 28*l.*; the earnings of his family, I have no doubt, are to the amount of 7*s.* 6*d.* a week; I saw this man on Saturday night, and asked him the particulars of what his family earned; he has given me an account of them; they earned 4*s.* 6*d.* a week only, he says, which will amount to 11*l.* 14*s.*, making their earnings 41*l.*; this is data I can go upon; Mr. Turner says 35*l.*, making a difference of 5*l.* 4*s.* in that case.

14576. *Chairman.*] Is Robinson working for you?—No.

14577. Do you know his family?—Yes.

14578. Is he living in comfort?—His wife is not in good health; she is hypochondriacal; the eldest girl is 15 years of age, a girl 11, a girl 9, a boy 6, and a boy 5.

14579. Mr. *Fielden.*] He had five children in 1837?—Yes.

14580. What children had he in 1834?—About the same I should suppose, because the youngest girl is five years of age.

14581. In this table the oldest is stated to be ten and the youngest one?—The man states the ages, and he most likely knows the ages of his children.

14582. How many were plaiters?—Three; he says that they earn 4*s.* 6*d.*, but when I give you an instance of a girl of eight years of age earning 2*s.* 8*d.* this family must have earned more than that.

14583. Did he state that they could earn only 4*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes.

14584. But you do not believe that?—I do not; I think they could earn more.

14585. What do you make the earnings of this man's family in 1834?—I have not got them for 1834.

14586. What do you make the earnings of this man and his family in 1837?—Forty-one pounds.

14587. Instead of 35*l.* 16*s.*?—Yes.

14588. There is Edward Cole; what observations have you to make upon that case?—Edward Cole had an excellent place of work in 1834, which he might have had in 1837; he worked for a friend of mine, Mr. Swaffield, and was his horse-keeper, and used to go to plough, several mornings; this man never went to attend to the horses, and Mr. Swaffield had given the man directions, and he repeated this so often that Mr. Swaffield was obliged to part with him, or he would have been working for Mr. Swaffield down to this time; he has lost his place through his misconduct.

14589. What were his earnings in 1837?—I have not got them; it is difficult to get them; he is a son of a very old labourer of mine; the boy married against his father's wish when he was about 18 years of age; he promised to be a nice lad, but he got into bad company.

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14590. The next is John Mossman; do you know what his earnings were in 1834?—I do not; he had an excellent place in 1834; he lost that by bad conduct and now he works for his father-in-law; he goes out drilling, and he is employed generally in drilling for 10 weeks or 12 weeks, and he has 2*s.* a day and his board; the rest of the year I do not know what he earns; I cannot get at his earnings; he was from home.

14591. Do you know the reason of Mossman losing his work?—I do.

14592. What was it?—I beg leave to decline saying; for I do not like the man, and perhaps the less I say the better it will be for me.

14593. You do not wish to state the reason?—I do not.

14594. Do you know that he summoned his master in order to get his wages?—I do not; I never heard of that.

14595. William Robinson?—You have him down in the table as not in constant work; he has a place of constant work, and has been for years in constant work; I suppose it is because the man worked only 37 weeks last year that it is so put down; but it is not stated why he did not work 52 weeks; it was from illness.

14596. He is given in this table as having 52 weeks' work in 1834, and in 1837 as having 37?—Yes, and he is stated to earn in 1837, 22 *l.*; I had it from his master that he earned 23 *l.* 14 *s.* 1 *d.*; he received from the parish, in illness, 3 *l.* 10 *s.*, which is taken from the parish books; he received from the benefit club, 15 weeks, at 8 *s.*, 6 *l.*, making altogether his receipts, without the earnings of his family, 33 *l.* 4 *s.* 1 *d.*; whereas Mr. Turner says only 22 *l.*

14597. Nine pounds seven shillings for the labourer's family?—I should say that his family's earnings last year were 15 *l.* 12 *s.*; this man would not tell me, but judging from the data, I think that this family earned 15 *l.* 12 *s.* instead of 9 *l.* 7 *s.*, making his income 48 *l.* 16 *s.* 1 *d.*; Mr. Turner states it 31 *l.* 7 *s.*, making a difference of 17 *l.* 9 *s.* 1 *d.*

14598. It does not appear that this labourer received any relief from the parish in either year?—Yes, Robinson received 3 *l.* 10 *s.* in 1837, in illness.

14599. Did Robinson receive that relief out of the workhouse?—He did.

14600. When did he make his application for relief?—The last week of the quarter, 24th of June, 1837, he applied through illness; he was allowed 8 *s.* for one week.

14601. Was he himself ill at the time?—He was.

14602. That was the reason why relief was given him at his own house?—It was.

14603. How long was he ill?—It appears that he was ill 15 weeks; he received 15 weeks' pay from his club.

14604. *Chairman.*] Was relief given him by the board of guardians at the same time that he received relief from his club?—It was.

14605. Then the fact of his receiving relief from the club did not interfere with his receiving relief from the board of guardians?—No; we encourage the clubs as much as we can.

14606. You do not make a practice to refuse relief when parties are ill, if they are receiving relief from clubs?—No, we do not.

14607. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have you any statement with reference to the labourers of the parish of Lidlington, connected with this table?—I have.

14608. There are three labourers described to be in constant work, and three not in constant work; be so good as to describe to the Committee in what respects, if in any, your information differs from that received by Mr. Turner?—To begin with John Capon: in 1837 his earnings, and all his family's earnings, were 46 *l.* 11 *s.*, here it is given 40 *l.* 5 *s.*

14609. From what information do you make that statement?—This is from information furnished to me by Mr. Bennett, of Woburn.

14610. Who is Mr. Bennett?—Agent to his Grace the Duke of Bedford.

14611. Does John Capon work for him?—No.

14612. How did he obtain the information?—From Mr. Thomas, the employer of the man.

14613. Who is Mr. Thomas?—A farmer at Lidlington.

14614. Did Mr. Thomas give you any information as to his wages in 1834?—He gave Mr. Bennett the information; he has got his wages for 1834, and I believe it is the only one he got for 1834; the wages of himself and family in 1834, (there were then nine in family,) were 50 *l.*; Mr. Turner gives

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it as 50 *l.* 2 *s.*; there were eight in family in 1837; the eldest boy had gone apprentice, and therefore the earnings of eight, himself, his wife and six children, are 46 *l.* 11 *s.*, instead of 40 *l.* 5 *s.*, making a difference of 6 *l.* 6 *s.*

14615. To what do you attribute the difference in the earnings in the two years?—The earnings of the eldest boy were put in in 1834, and not in 1837; and it goes on to say, "John Capon says he did not give any information to Messrs. Crabtree or Turner, but that some inquiries were made of his wife; the remainder was given by Henry Deacon, who could only guess at that; he has 30 poles of garden-ground, for which he pays 7*s.* 6*d*;" by-the-by, in the case of all these Maulden men, I have not taken into account the produce of their gardens, which is one very great omission which I ought to have done, in the case of one family in particular.

14616. What was the number of Capon's family in 1834 and in 1837?—Nine in 1834 and eight in 1837; I should have said, that William Robinson had a load of wheat, he told me, in 1837, which his children gleaned, and which he grew from part of his garden; now that load of wheat I have not reckoned in his income, which would have made it appear a great deal more than it now appears.

14617. What would be the value of a load of wheat?—Perhaps 26*s.* or 30*s.*, at 5*s.* a bushel.

14618. John Sissick?—John Sissick in 1837 was in regular employment; taking the earnings of himself, they appear, without his family's earnings, to be 30*l.* 8*s.*; taking the family earnings, which Mr. Turner has given as 2*l.* 12*s.*, and which I will set down as 2*l.* 12*s.*, will make 33*l.* for the man's income; Mr. Turner's statement is 28*l.*

14619. From whom had you that information?—This is furnished to me by Mr. Bennett.

14620. Is John Sissick employed by Mr. Bennett?—He is employed by William Line; he says, "John Sissick works for William Line; a farmer at Lidlington informs me that he is employed by him as ploughman and carter."

14621. Did you have that from John Sissick, or from the farmer who employs him?—No; I had it from Mr. Bennett.

14622. How did Mr. Bennett obtain his information?—I will read what he says: "William Line, a farmer at Lidlington, informs me that John Sissick is employed by him as ploughman and carter;" he also assists in milking on the Sundays, for which he receives his breakfast and supper, over and above his weekly wages, which were last year 9*s.* a week; he likewise assists to milk when his master is from home, and at those times he has his victuals and lodging besides his money wages; he has milk twice a day all the year round; butter-milk to take home for his family twice a week; he does not mow in hay-time, but had 11*s.* a week, and for the harvest month 4*l.* 4*s.*; for assisting in looking after the sheep in the lambing season his master makes him a present of a few shillings (this year 6*s.* and a bushel of potatoes). William Line states that the wife is a poor creature either for work or managing her family; that the man has quite one-half of his victuals with him, but nevertheless the family are badly off; has 20 poles of garden-ground, for which he pays 5*s.*

14623. Does that gentleman say any thing about the earnings of Sissick and his family in 1834?—He does not.

14624. Did you make application to the writer of that letter respecting John Sissick?—I did.

14625. Did you ask him to inquire as to his earnings in 1834 as well as in 1837?—I sent him this table, requesting him to get me all the information he could to lay before this Committee; I likewise wrote to say, that I was in expectation of being called daily before the Committee, and requested him to get it as quickly as he could, and he got it for 1837, because it was more in the recollection of the people than 1834 was.

14626. The next is Joseph Taylor?—Joseph Taylor's income is stated here to be 33*l.* 4*s.*; Mr. Turner states 26*l.* 14*s.*

14627. *Chairman.*] In what does the difference consist?—Six pounds ten shillings.

14628. In what particulars does the difference consist?—In the man's earnings; we have taken the earnings of the family at what Mr. Turner says, at only 2*l.* 12*s.*, very far below what they are.

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14629. Mr. Turner states the amount of the wages that the man receives to be 22*l.* 2*s.*, and harvest 2*l.*?—We make it 30*l.* 12*s.*

14630. How was he employed?—Mr. Bennett states, that "neither he nor his wife gave any particulars to Messrs. Turner and Crabtree; he works at Marston-park, with Mr. Baker as a tasker, and often earns 12*s.* a week; he works very little by the day; he then receives 10*s.* a week; Taylor has 30 poles of garden-ground for 6*s.* 6*d.*;" therefore I make his wages average 11*s.* a week, independent of the 2*l.* for harvest.

14631. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is that information given you by Mr. Bennett?—It is.

14632. By whom is Joseph Taylor employed?—Mr. Baker, of Marston-park.

14633. Do you know whether Mr. Bennett has been to Mr. Baker to ascertain whether that is true?—I do not know that.

14634. Does Mr. Bennett give you any account of the earnings of Joseph Taylor in 1834?—No, he does not.

14635. Are you able to state any thing of his earnings in 1834?—I am not.

14636. Then, the next case is William Lancaster?—He is stated here to be a man not in constant work; now he is a man in constant work; what Mr. Bennett states of him, I will read:—"William Lancaster is a constant man with William Line; is a tasker; works in the barns, &c.; when at day-work, is paid 10*s.* a week; has also milk and butter-milk, the same as John Sissick, all the year round; in hay-time last year he earned 18*s.* a week for three weeks; had four guineas for the harvest-month; two girls, 12 and 10 years old, make lace, and earn half-a-crown a week, after school and thread is paid;" therefore, taking William Lancaster 52 weeks at 10*s.* 6*d.* a week, making 27*l.* 6*s.*; the perquisites he has, milk and butter-milk, are worth 1*s.* a week to him; in hay-time he receives 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; in harvest, two guineas; the family earn 6*l.* 10*s.*, making 39*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, together; Mr. Turner states 30*l.* 6*s.*

14637. That is for the year 1837?—Yes.

14638. Who estimated the value of those perquisites which you speak of?—I did, in this room; I put them into a substantial shape.

14639. The estimate of the perquisites comes from you, and the other part of the estimate comes from Mr. Bennett?—Yes.

14640. Do you know from whom he obtained his information?—I have no doubt from William Line, the employer of the labourer; at least, I know nothing to the contrary, and therefore I suppose that.

14641. Are you able to give any account of the income of that family in 1834?—I am not.

14642. Have you not taken any means to inquire as to 1834?—I have not.

14643. The next case is Henry Deacon?—"Henry Deacon gave the information to Turner and Crabtree; he is not a character to be depended upon; he is now digging gravel for the surveyor, and getting about 12*s.* a week; has 30 poles of garden-ground at 7*s.* 6*d.*;" I think his wife keeps a plaiting-school, but I have lost the paper relating to that part of Henry Deacon.

14644. For whom does Henry Deacon work?—I do not think he has a constant place of work.

14645. You do not know what his earnings were in 1837?—I do not; they could not be got.

14646. Nor in 1834?—No.

14647. Why could they not be got?—Because when a man works for different masters, you cannot get it.

14648. Michael Reed; have you any thing to say upon that case?—He is not in constant work—"Much as above; is also digging gravel; now he has understated his work, only 44 weeks at 8*s.* a week; he applied to me for work last December, and he had about a month's draining before the storm set in; he earned 12*s.* a week; if he had been long out of work, I think he would have applied to me before, as he has in other years drained a good deal for me; when he left me in March last, he went to set beans for Cook at Brogboro'; I mention this to let you see, if he loses time it is his own fault; he has 28 poles of garden-ground at 7*s.*;" to have put that in any thing like shape it would have made a great alteration; this man might have obtained work from Mr. Bennett if he had gone to him; but he did not go, and if his earnings could have been put into any thing like shape, I think it would have made a great alteration.

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14649. You have not a statement of the earnings for either 1834 or 1837?—I have a statement for 1837, when he was at work for Mr. Bennett, his Grace's steward, who has been employing men in draining lands and different improvements.

14650. Is there any thing in that table which would show the income of Reed, or the wages during the year 1837?—I think it may be got; but if Reed lost time he lost it through his own neglect, because if he had gone to Mr. Bennett he might have been set on; and I do not think it is proved that he was long out of work, or he would have gone to Mr. Bennett; and he must have been employed more than 44 weeks, and at more wages than Mr. Turner has given in.

14651. Does Mr. Bennett state the length of time that he was employed at 12*s.* a week?—No, the storm came in; I dare say he got down to 10*s.* a week.

14652. He does not state any thing which would lead you to come to a conclusion as to his earnings in 1837?—No.

14653. Those other parishes you are not prepared to speak to?—With respect to Flitwick, I sent to Mr. Swaffield to ask him to get the particulars, and he, in the multiplicity of his business, could not do it; and he has gone into Dorsetshire.

14654. *Chairman.*] Is the paper in your hand a paper which refers to some labourers in the parish of Shitlington?—It is.

14655. Does it purport to be an account of their earnings in the year 1837?—It does.

14656. Do you observe, generally, much difference in that statement from the statement of Mr. Turner?—There is a difference.

14657. To what extent?—Seven pounds ten shillings in George Hare's case, 6*l.* 4*s.* in William Ingram's case, and 7*l.* 16*s.* in William Weston's case.

14658. Is that paper in Mr. Musgrave's handwriting?—It is.

14659. Mr. *Fielden.*] Does that apply to only three of the labourers in Shitlington?—It applies to only the three first names.

14660. What is the reason that the others are not in the list?—I do not know; I think Mr. Musgrave has an account of the other three.

14661. You stated in your evidence on Wednesday last, in No. 14125, that there were very few labourers out of work during the last winter?—I did.

14662. In answer to question 14133, relative to those out of work in the parish of Maulden during the last winter, your answer is, "I do not say there may not have been one or two out of work now and then;" do you know whether any greater number were out of work in the parish of Maulden during the last winter?—I shall repeat that answer; there might have been one or two out of work.

14663. Were there no more than one or two out of work in the parish of Maulden?—There may have been one or two, now and then.

14664. Mr. *Miles.*] When you say that only one or two were out of employment, you do not allude to the period of the very hard storm, when, from the very circumstance of the weather, certain persons in certain trades must have been thrown out of employment?—No; sometimes shoemakers will not work in frosty weather, and bricklayers; I do not call them farm labourers.

14665. And your remarks allude to farm labourers, whom you have always under your own eye?—Yes.

14666. Mr. *Fielden.*] You stated on Wednesday last, if there had been any out of work in Maulden, if they had applied to you, you would have given them work?—I should have taken some in; I do not say that I should have taken them all.

14667. Are you aware that in February last there were 33 persons out of work in Maulden?—I should say it was impossible.

14668. Here is a list of names, which purports to be a list of men out of work in Maulden, on the 17th of February; John Blick, Henry Cooper?—He is an old soldier.

14669. And Thomas Carter, Joseph Smith, William Jones?—He belongs to the parish of Flitton, not to the parish of Maulden; John Blick should have been with his father, in Luton.

Mr. *James Turner*, further Examined.

Mr. *James Turner.*

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14670. Mr. *Fielden.*] DID you find many men out of work in the parish of Maulden in January and February last?—On the 14th of January and the 17th of February I found 20 out of work; where they belonged to we never asked; we found them living there and out of work; those are Edward Cole, Samuel Smith, James Odell, William Webb, John Mossman, George Keach, James or John Emerton (I am not sure which it is), George Langley, John Richardson, Thomas Warren, Joseph Richardson, Francis Sharp, John Smith, Joseph Brightman, Elijah Carter, Thomas Sinfield, George Stanfield, John Daniels, Joseph Carter, John Richardson: these are the people that I found out of work on the 14th of January. William Webb, John Odell, William Sinfield, Edward Cole, Samuel Smith, James Odell, John Mossman, James Emerton, George Langley, John Richardson, Thomas Warren, Joseph Richardson, John Richardson, Francis Sharp, John Smith, Joseph Brightman, Elijah Carter, Thomas Sinfield, George Stanfield, Jabez Taylor, Thomas Odell, Thomas Blick, James Northwood, Thomas Brightman, Joseph Carter, Daniel Peat, James Billingham, George Keach, Benjamin Sinfield, John Daniels: that is the list of 30 that I found out of work on the 14th of January in the parish of Maulden.

14671. *Chairman.*] How many of those were boys?—One is 17 years old; I do not know what they call boys.

14672. Is that the youngest?—That I believe is the youngest, according to my notes, and a number of them 19 and 20, but there is only one as young as 17, I believe, according to my account.

14673. Mr. *Fielden.*] On the 17th of February what number did you find out of work?—I found 33 then; I found 20 out of those names in both instances, so that I presume that they had very little work in the mean time.

14674. *Chairman.*] Did you see those men yourself, or did you receive the information from some person residing on the spot?—On the 14th of January I saw the men, all of them, and received testimony from persons in the parish that they would work if they could get it to do, but there was no work for them to do; on the 17th of February I did not see them myself, but received the information in the handwriting of parties that were there.

Mr. *Thomas William Overman*, further Examined.

Mr. *T. W. Overman.*

14675. *Chairman.*] WILL you give an explanation of this list?—William Webb lives in the parish of Maulden, but does not belong to it; he bottoms chairs.

14676. He is not an agricultural labourer?—He is not; John Odell; there are one or two John Odell's; I think this is a bricklayer.

14677. Was it a frost at that time?—Yes, I should think so. William Sinfield goes about with turf-dust; he gets an excellent living, maintains his family well; he has four donkies and carries turf-dust. Edward Cole is the man that lost his place with Mr. Swaffield from his improper conduct. Samuel Smith did not apply to me for work, but he may have been out of work now and then. James Odell is a chimney-sweeper, and goes about sweeping chimnies, a razor-grinder and scissor-grinder, and a man to be found at the public-house, and if I want him I know where to find him. John Mossman is not the best of characters; he might have been in place if he liked; it was his own fault if he was out of work. James Emerton may be out of work five or six weeks; but, taking the quantity of money he earns in the year, I should say there is not a man better off in the parish of Maulden; he works principally for a person named Bentimore, who lets out drills; and this man, if he is in work for him, gets 2*s.* a day and his board; he earns a considerable sum of money, sufficient for him, if he should lose his work for a week, to do without work. George Langley is a horse-dealer; never did work and never will. John Richardson was draining a considerable time for Mr. French of Liversey, and he might possibly be stopped by the frost; I do not know where he is now, but there is generally wood-faggoting to be got at Maulden, because there are 14 acres of wood sold every year by his Grace the Duke of Bedford, and there is always plenty of wood in the sharp weather for faggoting; and if he gets only three days a week faggoting, he will earn as much as many that are in work the whole week. Thomas Warren does not belong to the parish of Maulden; he is now in the workhouse; he likes to go about begging and selling matches; he used to be a carpenter.

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14678. He is not a labourer?—No, Joseph Richardson; I thought he had been in prison all the time, that is his general place; he spends more time in prison than he does out of prison: then, here is another John Richardson; him I do not know: Francis Sharp would have been at work with me if he had come and asked me, but he knows why I will not set him to work, and, therefore, he does not choose to come and ask me; he is indebted a certain sum of money, which he does not pay me, and, therefore, I have not employed him; he works for Mr. Morris often: John Smith, I cannot call him to my recollection, without it is a soldier, a pensioner; there are two or three John Smiths: Joseph Brightman is a young man; if he was out of work I should think it was more from his character than any thing else; he can work if he likes, but he is a young man; he earns a good deal of money at times, and is indifferent about work; this man, Joseph Brightman, has never, I think, asked me for a job of work since I have been in the parish: Elijah Carter is a young man; he left his place for bad conduct, or he might have been horse-keeper at the present moment: Thomas Sinfield; if there ever was a good representation of Sir John Falstaff, he is the man, for I never knew a more drunken fellow in my life, ever since he was twelve years of age; he married the daughter of George Langley, the horse-dealer, and there is a very nice set between the two: George Stanfield belongs to Stevenage, in Hertfordshire; I put this young man out myself as a shoemaker; he lived three years with his master; this young man learned his business in three years, so as to be a first-rate shoemaker; he has run away from his master and suffered ever since, and though he is a shoemaker he will not take to that work; he will not follow his trade, not even mend his own shoes; he can make a shoe as well as any man in London if he likes to do it: Jabez Taylor might have been in service if he had liked, but he would stay out at night, and he lost his place because his master could not keep him in; he liked to get out of the window: Thomas Odell would have been at service at this time, only he was saucy; I got this lad a place; he lived two years there, and his master would have hired him again, but he went home so intolerably drunk that his master turned him off, or he would have been in service now: Thomas Blick never did work, and I dare say never will; his father lives in Luton; sometimes he is with his father at Luton, and sometimes in the parish of Maulden, but if he keeps with his father and takes to plaiting, he may get a living if he please; but some men have a great predilection for Maulden; if they once get in they do not like to go out again: James Northwood; I was not aware he was out of work, but I know that he was turned away from Mr. Seabrook's for misconduct: Thomas Brightman is a young lad; he married when he was about nineteen; he is about 22 now; he is occasionally out of work; he is very small; he works a good deal among the gardeners: Joseph Carter is a strong able-bodied man, and the only able-bodied man that is now in the Ampthill workhouse; thoroughly lazy; he has been there now for nine weeks, although there was work in bean-setting and bean-hoeing to be had, there he is and there he will remain; he used to carry fish about, but he has been nine weeks in the Ampthill workhouse: Daniel Peat does not belong to the parish of Maulden: James Billingham is a young man, I do not know whom he works for; he goes droving occasionally with sheep: George Keach works in the brick-fields, principally at Earl de Grey's; earns a good deal in the summer, and may have been out of work in the winter: Benjamin Sinfield, I do not know: there are two John Daniels, one is a sawyer and the other a carpenter.

14679. Mr. *Fielden.*] Those are the reasons that you assign for those men being out of employ at the dates there specified?—I did not hear that they were out of employ; those men have not come to me; I give the character of the men as they are known; and if the men had applied to me, I should say, that in that frosty weather I had more work than in any other; I had no turnips up when the frost came, and it took 12 men to cut them; I took one of the Sinfields, whether it was one of these or not I do not know; and I took on John Richardson (it may be one of those John Richardson's) in that sharp weather to assist my shepherds.

14680. If those men applied for parish relief would the workhouse be offered to them?—Of course.

14681. And character would not make any distinction in the offering of the workhouse

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workhouse to them as compared with those of good character?—Most of those are young men; very few are married; I do not see above three or four that are married, and they earn a considerable sum of money in summer; and if carefully taken care of, will last a considerable time in coarse weather.

14682. You stated that the workhouse was invariably offered to all able-bodied who applied for relief?—If their families were well, and if they came and said they were out of work and wanted relief, we always offer the workhouse.

14683. You make the same offer of the workhouse to men with good characters and to men with bad characters?—We make no distinction; we do not depart from our rules, because if once a precedent were made, there would be no knowing where to stop: guardians might show partiality, and therefore I think it is a very wise plan not to depart from that.

14684. *Chairman.*] You look to the destitution and to the wants of the parties?—We do.

14685. You believe that to be the proper ground upon which relief should be given?—I believe that is the only ground upon which the relief should be given.

14686. Is not that the ground contemplated in the Act of Elizabeth?—There is no doubt of it.

14687. Mr. *Fielden.*] What implies destitution?—When people have nothing to eat; those who are in a state of starvation, and who have nothing to buy food with, I should say that implies destitution.

14688. Supposing a man of good character in Bedfordshire, in the Ampthill Union, was working for less wages than would maintain him and his family, and he applied for relief, would you consider that a case of destitution?—We should consider it a proper case to offer the workhouse to.

14689. However good his character was?—Yes.

14690. You would do the same to a man however bad his character was?—Yes.

14691. Do you think that that is treating the honest labourer, whose income is insufficient for his maintenance, in the manner in which you, as a guardian of the poor, ought to treat him?—I do not think many men of good character will come to the board of guardians; most of them will be employed; there are charitably-disposed people in all parishes who will not let such men suffer.

14692. If any men have been suffering in Bedfordshire, do you draw the inference that it is because they have bad characters?—I do not think many have been suffering.

14693. Did Cole, who lost his wife in child-bed, bear a good or a bad character?—He was a man of very good character, I believe; I do know that man; he lives in Steppingley, and I think, if I recollect right, he never came before the board; I do not recollect his case; he did, I now remember, apply after the death of his wife: we paid for the burial of his wife, but not for the nurse for his child, the man being in the receipt of good earnings.

14694. In Cole's case it appears, from the answer given in 10523, that "he applied for relief, was offered the workhouse, or a place of work, at 9*s.*;" that is scratched out, and the word "Refused" is entered; so that ultimately the decision of the board is, that he should be refused relief at that time; were you present when that resolution was entered into?—Yes; I recollect this case; we found that this man was in a constant place of work, and we considered that he had no right to throw himself out of work, and to come into the workhouse, and therefore he was refused.

14695. Does that agree with the answer you gave yesterday in question 14093, that the workhouse is invariably offered?—I considered that the question of Mr. Fielden related to able-bodied men out of employ, when I gave that answer.

14696. But is the workhouse offered invariably to able-bodied men who are in employ, and who state that their wages are insufficient for their maintenance?—They are told, if they cannot maintain their families, that we can give them no other relief but the workhouse.

14697. Then the workhouse is offered invariably to all applicants, whether they are in work or out of work?—No, I do not say that.

14698. *Chairman.*] You say that the workhouse is not offered to all applicants invariably; if a person applies to you for relief, and you think, on an

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examination of his circumstances, that he is perfectly capable of maintaining his family, and is not reduced to circumstances of distress, would you offer him the workhouse, or any other relief?—No, we should refuse him, as we did in the case of a man from the parish of Flitwick, of the name of Richardson; he was in constant work, and he said he had nine children, and that he could not maintain his family; we ascertained what they earned, and first of all I took down what he himself earned a week, he told me 9 *s.*; his eldest boy, 19, he told me earned nothing; another boy, 17, 6 *s.*, another boy 3 *s.*, another boy 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, another boy, 11, nothing, another boy 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, and a girl of eight years of age he put down nothing; we found that the earnings, taking what the man said, amounted to 22 *s.* a week, and that man was refused relief; that happened, I think, either in the third or fourth week, and he applied because he had a large family.

14699. Mr. *Fielden.*] Had he nine children?—He had; I am inclined to think he had eleven.

14700. And a wife?—Yes.

14701. What did you make their earnings amount to?—According to his own showing 22 *s.* a week, but upon examination he said his boy gave him, when he was in work, 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a week to keep him, which made 25 *s.* 6 *d.* a week; this boy was the boy of nineteen that he said was out of work; and taking that 25 *s.* 6 *d.* as the weekly receipts, the board considered that it was not a case to relieve, and they refused any relief whatever; unfortunately I have not Mr. Swaffield's paper, or this identical man I think I could show earned 37 *s.* instead of 25 *s.* 6 *d.*; as he told us; and he told a most pitiable tale, so much so that the guardian of Flitwick moved that he should have relief on account of his large family; I, as chairman, refused to put the question; I said I might be reported, but that I never would put the question, whether the board of guardians should recognise head-money again, and I did not put it.

14702. *Chairman.*] Did the board of guardians interfere to enforce it?—No; the majority of the board were of my opinion; the guardian of Flitwick persisted in his motion—it was seconded; still I did not put it, and I said, "Now, gentlemen, I will not put the motion; if I am acting against the law I will walk out of the room, but I will never put the motion."

14703. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did you offer the man the workhouse?—I did not; but I did say this, "If there is any part of your family ill I will give you an order for medical attendance."

14704. There are, then, cases where you do refuse the offer of the workhouse?—Yes; I should think it would be cruel to the poor people who contribute to the funds if I let such a man go into the workhouse while I was sitting in that chair.

14705. *Chairman.*] Is it entered "Refused"?—Yes; I dare say it is entered in the book in that way; or I think I offered the man medical relief.

14706. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you make any calculation of the earnings that the men can obtain who make application to the board?—We generally ask them their situation and their earnings.

14707. Have you any scale by which you judge whether their income is sufficient for their maintenance or not?—The board of guardians generally ask those questions, but I am sorry to say we often find that they do not tell us the truth.

14708. What is your rule when you deny the workhouse?—It is where we know the men are in work; and in that case we might even have gone further; we could have gone to the magistrates and punished that man.

14709. It was not necessary then that you should have the workhouse to correct that man?—I do not know; it is often difficult to prove those sort of things; the workhouse is a much simpler way and a much better test, because it will throw a man upon his own resources.

14710. You say that you do not offer the workhouse to all who say that they are in want; what is the criterion by which you judge as to whether a man's earnings who is in employment are adequate to his maintenance or not?—We consider that there is no power in the law to make up a man's wages.

14711. Do you consider that if a man be employed, and does not receive adequate wages for the maintenance of himself and his family, he is entitled to relief?—He is a blockhead if he takes lower wages than will maintain himself and his family; I do not think it likely to happen.

14712. *Chairman.*]

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14712. *Chairman.*] If it were to happen, would you offer the workhouse?—If a man came to us in such a case, we should say, "The only chance for you, if the master will not give you better wages, is to come into the workhouse."

14713. In case a man came to you, and said that his wages were not sufficient to maintain his family, should you offer him the workhouse?—We should.

14714. Do you offer the workhouse partly in order to ascertain by means of that test whether the man is really in destitution, and partly supposing that the wages are altogether inadequate to the maintenance of the labourer and his family, in the expectation that the employers of labour in the parish to which the man belongs, having thrown upon them the great expense of maintaining him in the workhouse, will give the man better wages?—The guardians look at that.

14715. Do they take both those circumstances into their consideration when they offer the workhouse?—Yes.

14716. Do you think that it is likely to be attended with those results, to give shelter to the man and to induce the farmer to give higher wages?—It has had that effect in the parish of Cranfield; we have had men come in from the parish of Cranfield with large families, who have cost the parish nearly a guinea a week; and those families have been taken out at higher wages.

14717. Do you mean to say, that labourers belonging to that parish have come to you, stating that their wages were not sufficient to maintain their families; that you have taken them into the workhouse, and upon their being in the workhouse, the employers of labour in Cranfield have offered to employ them at wages sufficient to maintain them?—It has had that effect in Thomas Lack's case, the case I allude to.

14718. Then not only do you believe the workhouse calculated to produce those results, but practically you have seen it produce those results?—Yes.

14719. Mr. *Fielden.*] You say it has had that effect in the case of Thomas Lack; can you state the case of Thomas Lack to the Committee?—I can state how Thomas Lack first of all lost his place; he was a maltster, and had a good place, and he would never have lost it, but he was dishonest; after that time he was some time out of work; he came to us and said he could not maintain his family; that the wages he could get when he was in work were 7 *s.* a week, and he had a large family; he had suffered a good deal from his misconduct, and felt it; he said that what had passed never should occur again if he could get into a good place of work, but he could only get 7 *s.* a week; I then said to him, "Lack, you had better come into the house; it will have the effect of inducing the farmers to give you more money; they could afford to give you as much in Cranfield as they do in other places;" the man did come into the house, and was some time in the house, and the last report I heard of him was that he had a place of 9 *s.* a week, and his master had let him an acre of land besides.

14720. *Chairman.*] Is not the expense of maintaining a family in the workhouse considerable?—Yes; that family cost 1 *l.* 1 *s.* a week.

14721. That expense is thrown upon the particular parish to which the pauper belongs?—Yes.

14722. If many of those families were to come into the workhouse, and to be maintained at the expense of the parish, would the charge be very heavy?—It would.

14723. Would that be agreeable to the rate-payers of the parish?—It would not.

14724. Would it not have the effect of inducing them to take means for avoiding that expense?—Yes.

14725. Are there any other means of avoiding that expense, under this law, than by employing them at adequate wages?—I know of no other.

14726. Then do not you think that the workhouse test, as you apply it in Ampthill, is calculated to provide for the labourer adequate wages from his employer?—I do think it is likely to have that effect.

14727. And practically you have found it produce that effect?—Yes, the board of guardians have expressed their opinion to the two guardians from the parish of Cranfield, what a disgrace it was that they should pay less in that parish than in the other parishes, and I think it has had an effect upon them.

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14728. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you know the number of Thomas Lack's family?—A wife and eight children; ten in family.

14729. Do you know what the income of that family is now, when he has obtained 9*s.* a week?—No, I do not; I do not know what the earnings of the family are.

14730. *Chairman.*] You do not know the ages or capacities of the children?—No; I know the man by sight.

14731. Mr. *Fielden.*] Do you consider, as a guardian of the poor, that 9*s.* a week is adequate wages for the maintenance of a man and his family, when he has four or five children and a wife?—It does maintain them.

14732. How does it maintain them?—The men do not show in their appearance any distress, therefore I have a right to presume that they have a sufficiency.

14733. What is it that you judge by, as to what is the necessary means that a man should have, in order to maintain his family as he ought to maintain them?—When I see a man and his family look well, I have a right to presume that they have enough to maintain themselves.

14734. Are you aware what food and clothing they can provide at 9*s.* a week?—But 9*s.* is not all.

14735. *Chairman.*] You mean that 9*s.* are the man's wages only?—Yes, the day wages; they are much more than that.

14736. And independently of the earnings of the man, the earnings of his family must be taken into consideration?—Yes; and I believe in many cases the earnings of the man are nothing compared with the earnings of the family.

14737. Mr. *Fielden.*] But you never do calculate what sum they will have for their maintenance when they make application to the board?—Yes; we generally ask them what they have, and in fact, always.

14738. You have no fixed rule prescribed to yourselves as to what the sum should be that the man should have to live upon?—No.

14739. You are governed in your decision more by the fact of whether the man is in employment or not, than by the wages he receives?—Yes; if the man is in employment.

14740. You have said, that if a man works for wages less than will maintain him and his family, he is a blockhead; has the working man any control whatever over the wages he is to receive from the employer?—Our men never coalesce to coerce the master; but if a man is of good conduct there are very rare instances where he does not get sufficient to maintain his family.

14741. Are not the men obliged to take such wages as the employer will give them?—No.

FORTY-THIRD REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
15 *June* 1838.

501.

245

FORTY-FOURTH, FORTY-FIFTH, AND FORTY-SIXTH

REPORTS

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIXES.

(MEDICAL INQUIRY.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
20 & 22 *June* 1838.

[*Price* 1*s.* 7*d.*]

518.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

22 *June* 1838.

WITNESSES.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

MEDICAL INQUIRY.

Martis, 19° *die Junii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines.	Mr. Langdale.
Mr. Estcourt.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Liddell.	

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

The following EVIDENCE, as given by Dr. *Kay* on the 20th of March, was read over to the Committee;—with the Appendix.

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5064. Mr. *Wakley*.] WILL you be kind enough to state to the Committee what is the nature of the medical arrangements which you have made in the unions in Norfolk and Suffolk?—In Norfolk and Suffolk, the boards of guardians have, with only one or two exceptions, decided to give fixed salaries to the medical officers, bearing commonly a certain proportion to the population, that is, however, not a fixed proportion; and have advertised in the local papers the salaries and the districts into which the union was divided for the purposes of medical relief; they have received the offers of medical gentlemen for the office of medical officers to the union, and have elected from among the number of applicants those whom they thought most desirable; it has also been almost universally the rule to permit the medical officers so elected to provide themselves, with the approbation of the board of guardians, with whatever subsidiary assistance among their professional friends they might deem requisite for the right discharge of their duties; and that course has been adopted because it was exceedingly difficult for the boards of guardians, or for the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, to adapt the districts to the convenience of each medical gentleman in the district, without appearing to make districts for particular medical gentlemen. It has, therefore, been thought more expedient that those arrangements, by which the convenience of the medical officers would be promoted, should be left to be settled among themselves, subject to the approbation of the boards of guardians.

5065. Have any instructions been sent from the Poor Law Commissioners to the boards of guardians upon that subject?—I do not know that any direct instructions have been at any period sent from the Poor Law Commissioners.

5066. Do you consider that there is any provision in the Act of Parliament which empowers the Commissioners to allow the medical men with whom they make their contracts to sublet the paupers in their district?—If that were positively and distinctly the case, I do not see the provision; but the fact is this, that the board of guardians, upon recommendation from the medical officers after they are elected, immediately re-arrange the districts, and they assume a new form; it is never done without the approbation of the board of guardians, and that makes it their act, and not the act of the medical officers.

5067. What is the nature of the qualification demanded of the medical practitioners?—The qualification is that understood to be demanded in the provision of the Poor Law Amendment Act, that the person elected shall be duly qualified by law, that is, either that he shall be a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company,

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or that he shall have been in practice previously to the passing of the Apothecaries' Act, or be a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, or a physician, in which case he cannot dispense his own medicines, without rendering himself liable to prosecutions at law.

5068. Do you consider a member of the College of Surgeons licensed to practise as a medical man?—Not licensed to dispense his own medicines; but the fact is, that the great majority of the gentlemen who are members of the Royal College of Surgeons are also licentiates of the Apothecaries' Company.

5069. Does not the greater part of the duty which a medical man has to exercise in the unions partake of the medical character, and not of the surgical?—Certainly; the great majority of the cases in practice are cases which formerly were cases allotted to physicians as distinguished from surgeons.

5070. Have you any graduates of the Scotch universities in your unions?—I think there may be one or two, but exceedingly few, the great majority being, I believe, members of the Royal College of Surgeons of London.

5071. Are you aware that you have any who are not licentiates of the Apothecaries' Company?—I do not know that there is any single person not a member of the Apothecaries' Company, unless he were in practice previously to the passing of the Apothecaries' Act on August 1, 1815.

5072. Do you think that the medical arrangements are satisfactory to the medical practitioners, and also to the poor?—I believe that in arrangements of that kind a certain amount of dissatisfaction must occur; but I think that to a large extent the present arrangements are more satisfactory than the arrangements made previously to the formation of the unions with the parishes and incorporations.

5073. Are the sums now paid in the aggregate, for medical relief, greater than they were before the Poor Law Amendment Act came into operation?—The Committee are aware that the district of Norfolk and Suffolk was, at the time that I entered it, peculiar in this respect; that it contained numerous incorporations under local Acts, resembling very much in their character the unions under the Poor Law Amendment Act; those incorporations adopted a similar practice in most respects in engaging medical officers to that which is adopted under the new unions; and I find that the salaries given in the new unions and in many of the incorporations, now under the Commissioners' regulations, bear nearly the same relation to the population that the salaries given in the old incorporations did. For example, I find in the Mitford and Launditch incorporation, in Norfolk, the ratio of salary to the population was 5 *d.* to each inhabitant; in the Mitford and Launditch Union, the proportion of the salary to the population was $4\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; in the Stow incorporation the proportion of the salary to the population under the incorporation was $4\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*; the proportion of the salary, under the union, to the population is $4\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; in the Loddon and Clavering incorporation, the proportion of the salary to the population was $2\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*; in the new union it is $3\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; in the Wangford incorporation, the proportion of the salary to the population was $2\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*; in the new union it is 3 *d.*; in East and West Flegg incorporation, the proportion of the salary to the population was $2\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; in the new union, under the Poor Law Commissioners' regulations, it is $3\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*; in the Colnies and Carlford incorporation, the salary was $3\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* to the population; in the Woodbridge Union, in which the old incorporation of Colnies and Carlford is now included, the salary to the population was $4\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* to each person; in Forehoe incorporation, upon a series of years, the salary to the population bore a proportion of $2\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*, but if my memory serve me rightly, upon which I do not intend to make a positive statement to the Committee, the salary at the period when the incorporation was brought under the regulations of the Commissioners was only one third of what is here stated; in the Forehoe hundred the salary now bears a proportion of 3 *d.* to the population; in Great Yarmouth parish the salary was $0\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* per head, upon the old management; under the present management in Great Yarmouth parish the salary is $1\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*; in the Tunstead and Happing incorporation, the salary was $2\frac{3}{4}$ *d.*; in the Tunstead and Happing hundred under the Commissioners' regulations, the salary bears the proportion of 3 *d.* per head to the population; in the Bosmere and Claydon incorporation the salary was at the proportion of $4\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; in the Bosmere and Claydon Union it is $4\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per head of the population.—[*The Witness delivered in the Table.—Vide* Appendix, No. 1, p. 15.]—In attempting to form some estimate of the basis upon which the arrangements for medical relief in Norfolk and Suffolk should be conducted, particular reference

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ference was made to the experience which those incorporations had of the method of regulating relief to the poor, and that many of them were exceedingly ill managed, and the medical relief, amongst other circumstances, was very ill regulated; still it formed almost the only basis upon which we could ground an estimate of what proportion the salary in a union ought to bear to the population. It will be perceived that, in those cases, no great difference was made in that proportion, and I believe the salaries in these particular cases, where it rises up to 4½ *d.* or 3½ *d.*, are about an average of the salaries which were given in the new unions throughout the country; but there has been a great diminution of the extent of duty discharged by the medical officers in the new unions, as compared with the duties discharged under the incorporations.

5074. Do you consider the duties to be much less in the new unions?—Yes.

5075. In the tables you have given in, is there, upon the whole, an increase, as compared with the former charge?—In certain cases there is an increase.

5076. Have you taken the average?—I have not; but I may state that those cases in which there is an increase are cases of incorporations the best managed. In certain of the incorporations there was very little able-bodied pauperism, and the particular cases, in which there is an increase, are cases of that kind which are to be taken as exceptions to the general rule in Norfolk and Suffolk.

5077. Do your tables refer to the same period of time, under the old incorporation and the new?—They refer to annual periods.

5078. Did you take the last year previously to the formation of the unions, and the first year of the unions?—These returns were obtained in answer to a circular which I addressed to the clerks of the unions, finding that I had lost my notes, which had been used at an earlier period, and which had been collected for me by individuals connected with the various incorporations; and they do refer, I believe, to the year preceding the formation of the unions, excepting the case of Forehoe hundred, which is an average of certain years, and in the case of Great Yarmouth, which, I believe, also is an average of three years preceding.

5079. Can you state what proportion the pauper population bore to the other part of the population?—I cannot in the old incorporations; I can in the new unions.

5080. Are you able to state to the Committee what proportion the expense for medical attendance has been, with reference to the labouring population exclusively?—I do not think that I could do that, because that would require a new census of the population.

5081. The statement which you have made, with reference to the proportion of the expense to the whole population, will not show what is really the duty which the medical practitioner has to perform, because there may be in some districts a very large pauper population, in other districts a very small pauper population; in one case he would have a most severe duty, and in the other a slight duty?—I am aware of the difficulty proposed in the question, and the Committee will perceive that consideration must have been a very formidable difficulty in attempting any estimate whatsoever of what the medical salaries ought to be; and I therefore desire to state to the Committee, that the medical salaries having been very much based upon what was done in the incorporations, my own personal opinion is, that the whole of the existing arrangements must be deemed provisional, subject to such modifications as the experience of the Poor Law Commissioners and the boards of guardians suggest; and I myself perceive how a certain amount of modification might be admitted, merely as respects the salary for the discharge of the duties of medical officer. All I should wish to state is, that, having a duty to discharge to the three parties, the rate-payers, the medical profession and the poor, it seemed reasonable to take the example of the incorporations, as, in the more prominent features, the best ground of proceeding to settle the salaries in the new unions.

5082. In making your arrangements, the Committee would be glad to learn what has been the size of the medical districts which you have apportioned to the medical practitioners?—I can give the most exact information to the Committee upon that subject; but I must remind the Committee that in the majority of the unions, as I have already stated, the districts were not settled by the boards of guardians in the first instance, but they were settled upon such modifications as might occur upon a conference with the medical officers. Those modifications have extensively interfered with the districts

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that had been formed; the guardians, have thus, especially in the Suffolk unions, reduced the size of the districts materially. I hold in my hand an account of each medical district in Norfolk and Suffolk, I believe in every union, or in the great majority of the unions; the number of parishes attended by each medical officer, who is named in the schedule; the area of each medical officer's district, estimated in English statute acres; the population of each medical officer's district, as the districts were regulated previously to March 1837, and I believe that no material change has taken place in those districts, though particular modifications may have occurred since that period; and I find that in Suffolk, the average extent of a district is 10,566 statute acres or about four miles square, and that the population is 3,284, on the average; and in Norfolk, the district averages 12,977 statute acres, and the population 3,057, being an area of about four and a half miles square. There are particular districts, in Norfolk especially, as every one who is acquainted with the surface of that country is aware, where there are wide, waste tracts of barren land, that very much interfere with the apportionment of proper districts; there are also other districts, particularly I have reference to one union in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth, where the arrangements are, I believe, perfectly satisfactory, where there is a wide extent of marsh land; and another union, the Downham Union, exhibits a considerable extent of marsh land. In those unions upon the marsh, and fen, and the barren lands, there are very few inhabitants, and of course the medical district is on that account rendered much more extensive than it otherwise would be. Excluding those unions from consideration, the average extent of the districts would be considerably reduced, though the average of the population would not be materially affected.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 2, p. 15.]

5083. Will you state the highest and lowest population in the two counties?—In casting my eye over the Suffolk medical districts, I do not find that any rural medical district contains a population greater than 6,800, which occurs in only one instance; I find that one town district, Ipswich, contains a population of 6,900.

5084. What is the salary of the medical officer in that district?—I cannot state that.

5085. What is the cost per head in that district?—I cannot tell as respects the particular medical officer's district; I could give information of the salaries respecting an entire union.

5086. Can you state in those unions where the population varies from 3,000 to 4,000, what is generally the amount of salary?—The salary in the unions, in its relation to the population, would perhaps not afford the Committee the best information from which to judge of what the amount of the remuneration is; I am desirous, in order that this question may be settled upon its true basis, to afford the Committee all the information in my power, whether it makes for or against the present arrangements; because I think it is a very important question, and one which can only be finally adjusted by information from all quarters being obtained. I wish to say that I am not prepared to justify the present arrangements, excepting as provisional, and that I expect changes to be made in the arrangements. I will, therefore, with the permission of the Committee, give them the statements which I think are important in the consideration of this subject: first, as respects competency of the medical officers in Norfolk and Suffolk, I am very happy to state to the Committee, that I have received from the chairmen of the various unions, confident assurances that most respectable medical gentlemen in the district have accepted appointments; and I find that a very great majority of duly qualified medical practitioners in Norfolk and Suffolk are officers of the unions, with certain exceptions, which I will state to the Committee. Being anxious to obtain information on that subject, I addressed a circular to the clerks of the various unions, requesting that they would acquaint me with the number of medical officers employed by unions; the number of practitioners duly qualified residing in each union; the number of practitioners duly qualified and resident in the union who are medical officers; the number of practitioners duly qualified and resident in the union who are not medical officers, but who reside in the same parish with one of the medical officers; the number of duly qualified medical practitioners who reside in the union, and who are not medical officers, but who do not reside in the same parish with a medical officer; the number of duly

duly qualified practitioners who are medical officers of the union for adjacent parishes, though resident beyond the limits of the union. The results are these: the number of medical officers employed by the unions enumerated in this table is 169; the number of medical practitioners duly qualified, who are resident in the unions, are 222; the number of medical practitioners duly qualified and resident in the union, who are medical officers, 127; the number of medical practitioners duly qualified, resident in the union, and who are not medical officers, but resident in the same parish with one of the medical officers, 78; the number of practitioners duly qualified and resident in the union, who are not medical officers, but who do not reside in the same parish with a medical officer, 17; the number of practitioners duly qualified, who are medical officers for adjacent parishes, who reside beyond the limits of the union, 42; so that the exceptional cases of medical practitioners who are duly qualified and are resident in the union, are the cases chiefly in which those medical practitioners reside in the same parish with the medical practitioner who is employed by the union, all other cases of medical officers, with the exception of 17, being employed by the various unions.

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[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 3, p. 18.]

5087. Have you included in this calculation all who are employed by the medical contractors themselves?—Those are officers of the union, their appointment having in every case received the direct sanction of the board of guardians.

5088. All the sub-agents have received the sanction of the board?—The board of guardians have no cognizance of what the exact nature of the pecuniary arrangement may be, they have only cognizance of the extent of the district, and the qualification of the medical officer.

5089. Do you find that that arrangement has given satisfaction among the medical men and the poor, viz., the apportionment of the medical men to the population; do you find that the medical men demand that a larger number should be employed?—I do not think there is any great desire generally that a larger number of medical practitioners should be employed; I believe there are medical practitioners in the district who would desire to become officers of unions, and there are one or two unions, which I should desire to avoid mentioning by name, in which, probably, arrangements will be soon made for admitting a larger number of medical practitioners as medical officers of the union.

5090. Do you not consider it extremely desirable that the medical districts should be generally as small as possible?—I think it is desirable, if that can be done without apportioning the district with an especial reference to the interest of individuals, because, if arrangements were made with that circumstance forming the most prominent feature of the arrangement, I fear, eventually, however pure the motives of the individuals making them in the first instance might be, that there would be a tendency to favouritism, to the exclusion of persons equally well qualified.

5091. You are aware that the medical districts in Norfolk and Suffolk are smaller than in any other district in the kingdom?—Indeed I do not know what the extent of other medical districts is.

5092. Do you not believe that they are so?—I do not know.

5093. In making them so small, has it not been your desire to place within the reach of the poor person a medical man in all cases of emergency?—I believe the arrangement of permitting the medical men to make subordinate arrangements with the medical practitioners of the union would conduce to that result, and I thought that result desirable.

5094. Consequently the income to each medical practitioner is exceedingly small?—I think that in obtaining the foregoing advantage you must sacrifice the advantage alluded to in the question, to a certain extent, that the medical officer's interest in his duties should be increased by the amount of income which he receives, which however is not a consideration which ought to be lost sight of.

5095. As you are yourself a physician, and you have had considerable experience in the working of the existing medical arrangements, are there any suggestions which you could offer to the Committee for the improvement of the present system?—Certainly there are; the first suggestion I would make is this: I consider the chief defect of the existing arrangement is, that the salaries of the medical officers are apportioned as an establishment charge, according to the

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averages of the union, and not as a parochial charge bearing any relation to the amount of medical relief in each particular parish; and I do believe that in that way not only is a certain amount of risk and injury to the medical officer encountered, but also there is not, as in other arrangements under the Poor Law Amendment Act, the same direct stimulus to the occupiers to afford the poorer classes the means of obtaining independent medical assistance for themselves, which the other arrangements in the unions appear to me to be especially adapted to obtain; I should therefore say, that if any plan could be adopted by which the expense of the medical attendance should bear a proportion to the number of sick attended in the parish, that such an arrangement would be in every respect a great advantage. I also think that all who are paupers and in actual receipt of out-door relief, should, without the intervention of orders, receive medical assistance, and I would therefore have an arrangement made by which those who are actually in receipt of parochial relief (and that class may now be pretty well determined) should obtain medical assistance without the intervention of an order from any person whatsoever, but upon an application and the presentation of a certificate that they were in receipt of parochial relief. I would adopt that arrangement upon this ground, that the greater part of those persons are either infirm in body or in mind, or are aged, and attention to the early stages of disease in all those cases is exceedingly desirable, and I have no doubt that an arrangement by which the medical officers would be called in at the earliest stages of disease, would tend to diminish their duties, and also to promote the efficacy of the medical relief to that class of poor. The first thing, therefore, to be done under that view of the arrangements would be, to make out for a certain period, for half a year or a year, the number of persons who might be expected in each parish to be in receipt of out-door relief for that half-year or that year, and then to settle the salary, either at so much per head, or bearing a proportion to the number for the medical officer in the case of each individual parish. This duty would have to be performed by the board of guardians. The arrangements for the admission of cases beyond that class might be subject to various modifications, suggested by experience; that which at present suggests itself to me is this, that the cases of casualty and of sickness occurring among able-bodied labourers and persons not in receipt of out-door relief, should be made the subject of an arrangement at so much per case, which payment, I think, might be founded upon elements which are accessible from various sources of information.

5096. You mean the case system to apply only to those who are not included in the half-yearly list?—Certainly.

5097. Supposing a half-yearly list were made out, as you have described, and the pauper population contained in that list were scattered over such a district as you have described, say four and a half miles square, what sum should you deem to be an adequate compensation to the medical practitioner?—I do not think that I am prepared to make to the Committee any proposition upon that subject. In reflecting upon the principles on which it might be desirable to base the remuneration of medical practitioners, I desire, with great deference, and, at the same time, with some hesitation, to state, that this appears to me to be a reasonable principle—provided it can be ascertained in any way what is the average sum paid by the class of poor out of their own earnings for medical assistance, I cannot believe that it would be proper that the sum paid by the parish or the union should exceed the proportion paid by the independent poor as a class; I do not know that it ought to be lower, but I do not think that it ought to be higher.

5098. Are you not aware that medical practitioners sustain very heavy losses by their attendance upon the labouring population?—I am aware of that, and I am also aware that many of the medical practitioners are (and I may presume to say it with great deference to them as a body) averse to the system of mutual assurances among the poorer classes; but I do think, without reference to the question before the Committee, but merely in reference to my own experience in the profession, that the system of mutual assurance, as applied to medical relief, does afford to the medical profession a larger amount of remuneration than the plan of obtaining from a small portion of the poor payment, and losing it in a great majority of other cases.

5099. Do you find that the profession concur with you in that opinion?—I do not think that they universally do, or that the majority do; but I think that a great portion of the profession does.

5100. Your remarks apply to the medical club system?—I wish to separate any particular system from the consideration of the principle which I submitted to the Committee; I spoke of mutual assurances among the poor.

5101. That is another term for the club system?—Except that, in the club system, there has been a certain scale of payment proposed, but which, I am aware, is open to objection, and that the medical club system has reference to particular rules and particular arrangements, all which I wish to separate from the general question of mutual assurance.

5102. Do you not consider that it is vicious in principle, that the board of guardians should interfere relative to the payments that are to be made by independent labourers to medical men?—I have always advised that the contrary course should be pursued; and I have refrained, generally, from asking questions upon the subject of what those arrangements are, because I do think that is a subject which ought to be left to the medical practitioner and the poorer classes.

5103. Then the Committee are to understand that, in the unions of Norfolk and Suffolk, it has not been made a condition with the medical practitioner, before he was allowed to be an officer of the union, that he should admit the independent labourers, upon certain terms, into what is called an independent club?—I remember one instance only, in which that was ever proposed, and in that particular instance I interfered, and strongly advised that such a course should not be adopted, believing it to be quite inconsistent with the regulations which ought to obtain with the officers of the union.

5104. In the absence of the interference of any board of guardians, have independent clubs been established?—They have, I believe, extensively. But I wish also to inform the Committee, that I have thought that jealousies might be obviated, by not making minute inquiries, and only in cases in which such information has been volunteered to me have I information to furnish the Committee. I believe I have no more right to inquire into such arrangements, generally, than I have to inquire into the private business of a medical officer.

5105. Then, with regard to the statistics, you are quite unacquainted with them?—I have with me letters from medical practitioners, who have formed such clubs, giving me the number of their subscribers to such clubs, and furnishing me with an expression of satisfaction at the arrangements, which letters are at the service of the Committee, if they deem it desirable to hear them read.

5106. You may read them?—I have a letter here from a medical officer of the Aylsham Union, in Norfolk, giving me an account of his medical club.—[*The Witness read the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 4, p. 18.]—Those are the rules.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 5, p. 19.]

5107. You are not aware that the board of guardians sanction those rules?—Not at all. I believe that the board of guardians may have encouraged the formation of those clubs, and may have circulated information upon the subject; but there has been no interference of the board in prescribing any set of rules, or in prescribing the terms to be adopted in any club.

5108. *Chairman.*] Has the board of guardians in your district made a subscription to those clubs a condition of receiving medical relief?—In no instance; there was one instance where that was attempted, and I remonstrated against it, and whether it was adopted or not my memory does not enable me to say; if it was, it was against the system, which I have endeavoured to promote, of the perfect abstinence of the board of guardians from interfering in the medical club.

5109. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you any other letter which you wish to read?—I was informed by Mr. Robert Newton Shawe, the chairman of the Woodbridge Union, that Mr. Armstrong, a medical gentleman resident in Melton parish, had some experience of medical clubs, and I wrote him a note requesting him to meet me, in order that, if agreeable, he might communicate to me information, which he did in the following terms:

[*The Witness read the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 6, p. 21.]

5110. Then, the Committee understand distinctly from you that you deprecate all interference of the boards of guardians between medical men and the inde-

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pendent labouring population of the parish?—As respects the agreement or the arrangements made between the independent poor and the medical officers, I think the boards of guardians have no more right to interfere than with the other patients of the medical officer.

5111. And you are also of opinion, that, if it were possible, the payment of the medical practitioner should bear a strict proportion to the extent of duty that he has to execute?—Certainly; it is with that view alone that I proposed to the Committee a modification of the arrangement between the medical officers of unions and the boards of guardians.

5112. In the small medical district which you have described, do the poor find any difficulty in obtaining an order for medical relief?—I will not say that there are not particular instances, in Norfolk and Suffolk, in which I should very much wish that the arrangements were better than they are; but the Committee will perceive that the immense extent of duty imposed upon the Assistant-commissioners has prevented, till a recent period, our attending to minute details in every case; I have great confidence that the summer will not pass before all that inconvenience is done away with.

5113. Though the districts are small, medical relief cannot be obtained in all cases so speedily as you could desire?—There may be particular cases of that kind, and, I believe, are, which are exceptions to the general rule, and which are unavoidable.

5114. Would you not deprecate pressing down the payments of medical men to the lowest sum that can be obtained by contract?—Yes.

5115. Do you not think where that is done that it tends to produce an inferiority of medical attendance, and an inferior description of medicine?—I have always urged, in my district, that the system of contract by tender should not be adopted, because I have thought it desirable that we should have the services of the most respectable medical practitioners; and I have thought that if fixed salaries were offered we might procure that advantage, and that we might run the risk of not procuring that advantage if fixed salaries were not offered; as respects the amount of remuneration given to the medical officers, it appeared to me that it was very difficult, in the first instance, to ascertain the true basis of our proceedings: I believe for the future the principle which I have stated to the Committee ought to be adopted as the basis, and that information ought to be procured in order to settle the amount of that remuneration.

5116. In how many instances have strangers obtained the contracts in the unions with which you have been connected?—In not one.

5117. Would you approve of introducing strangers in preference to medical practitioners of the neighbourhood, if arrangements could be made with them upon fair and equitable terms?—I should think that now there is no difficulty in making such arrangements with the medical practitioners. I believe, before the true intentions of the Poor Law Commissioners were understood, there were sometimes unnecessary irritation and vexation; and the Committee must perceive that, if the Commissioners were satisfied of the grounds of their proceedings, it was incumbent upon them, in every instance, not to yield to that irritation and vexation. In my district, however, I do not remember that there has been any recent instance of that kind, and the only instance that I do remember was at the very first stage of the proceedings, before the arrangements were very well understood.

5118. Was it in the neighbourhood of Stowmarket?—Some dissatisfaction existed there.

5119. What is the mode adopted relative to midwifery patients?—The arrangements in Norfolk and Suffolk have been of this kind: we have stated, in the terms of the resolution fixing the salary, that such midwifery cases should be attended as were required to be attended by the board of guardians; but an explanation has always accompanied that resolution to the medical officers elected, that no requisition for the attendance of midwifery patients would be made, except in cases of difficult labour, or in cases of sudden and urgent necessity; and I believe it will be found that exceedingly few midwifery patients have been attended in Norfolk and Suffolk. I believe that in one or two unions the common midwives of the district have been paid for attendance in midwifery, but it did appear to me to be that kind of medical attendance which ought to be the earliest got rid of, because the parties had several months the necessity of providing attendance in view, and that there ought to be only a limited number of cases which ought

to

to be admitted by the board of guardians. I am aware of no difficulties upon that subject.

5120. Have you heard of complaints?—I have heard of complaints from time to time.

5121. In Norfolk and Suffolk the medical men are not called upon to attend the wives of labourers, except in difficult cases?—Certainly not.

5122. So that the same rule applies, with regard to the paupers under the board of guardians, as applies to the wives of independent labourers?—Certainly; but we have very few able-bodied married persons, or none, in receipt of relief; and, therefore, none paupers.

5123. Mr. *Miles.*] By whom are the payments made; by the board of guardians, or by the medical officers?—In the cases which I have in my mind, there are one or two unions in which the payments are made by the board of guardians, in cases where they think medical relief ought to be afforded; instances in which they give that form of relief are very few in number.

5124. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you any tables showing what has been paid to medical practitioners in any of the self-supporting dispensaries?—I thought it would be desirable to procure such information, with the view simply of indicating whta the payments now made are, by independent labourers, for attendance, and I have here an analysis of the expenditure of the Coventry Self-supporting Dispensary, from July 18, 1831, to March 25, 1837, under the several heads of expenditure, with the average of the cost per case, under various heads, comprising chiefly medicine, surgeons' salaries, surgical instruments, and the dispenser's salary, and the cost per case, including, besides those heads thus enumerated, the secretary's salary, carriage, postage, printing, advertising, stationery, &c.; repairs, alterations and painting; coals, candles, insurance and rent; poor and church rates; boys' wages. —[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 7, p. 22.]—I have also similar statements of the expenditure of the Burton-upon-Trent Self-supporting Dispensary, for the years ending October 31, 1836, and October 31, 1837.—[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 8, p. 22.]—I have another table of the Derby Self-supporting Charitable and Parochial Dispensary, from November 1831 to November 1836.—[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 9, p. 22.]—I put in those tables in answer to the question proposed to me, but I desire, at the same time, to state that I consider this information only to be useful as one among many sources from which information can be derived, and I do not consider that this would enable us, of itself, to fix the remuneration for the medical officers; but I think there must be information derived from many other sources before that can be ascertained.

5125. Is it stated in those cases how far the medical practitioners visited the patients from their own residence?—That is not stated in those tables; but the population being a concentrated town population, they would have to travel a less distance than in the rural districts; in the rural districts of Norfolk and Suffolk, the Committee will perceive that the average size of the districts is not such as to form, except in particular instances, a great obstacle to the medical officers.

5126. But still the time occupied in visiting the patients in the rural districts would be much longer than in the cases you have referred to?—I am aware of that, and that an allowance must be made for that in making the remuneration to the medical officers; but, at the same time, it ought to be taken into account that his private patients will be similarly scattered, and that, in the discharge of his duties to the poor, he would be at the same time discharging his private practice.

5127. Do those tables furnish the amount of surgical instruments and dispenser's salary?—Yes; they are valuable upon that account; but I am not disposed to place the same reliance upon them as to the amount of medical remuneration.

5128. Is there any great variation between them in their results?—Singularly they approach very nearly to the same results.

5129. *Chairman.*] You have said that you object to the system of obtaining medical assistance by way of tender; what is your objection to it; I believe that the period is now passed when it may be necessary to resort to such a system; in the first instance, I can perceive how the system was almost necessarily

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adopted. I may state, that my district is a peculiarly fortunate one in this respect, that it afforded, by the practice of the incorporations, a sort of rule which might be not improperly adopted; but in other districts, where there were no means of ascertaining what rule ought to be adopted, it does appear to me that a reference to the medical gentlemen was that which it was most natural to take; the objections which have been made by the medical profession probably were not anticipated at the time that this course was adopted, and those objections have daily become more apparent. I am guided, in stating that I think that course undesirable, very much by the knowledge that I have of the feelings of the medical profession; and, since those feelings have been expressed, I do not think that there is any desire on the part of the Poor Law Commissioners, but the contrary, that such a plan should be pursued.

5130. Do you think that, considering the experience that the boards of guardians now have of the expense of medical attendance, the necessity which might at their first formation have existed for their having recourse to the system of tender, does not now exist?—Certainly I do, and I think that there is a desire now to abandon that system.

5131. And you would prefer that the remuneration should be by way of fixed salary?—Certainly.

5132. That salary to be determined by the board of guardians?—That salary to be determined by the board of guardians, upon the elements which I have submitted to the Committee, first, the number of persons who are in the receipt of out-door relief, and, secondly, by a payment for the individual cases of casualty.

5133. Mr. *Barneby.*] In the unions formed by you in Norfolk and Suffolk, have you adopted the payment of medical officers per case?—At present not in one union.

5134. Do you see any objection to adopting that method?—I see this objection, that, until the settlement of the question of the relations between the poor and the board of guardians on the subject of medical attendance has occurred, there might be improper objections made by overseers to the relief of cases of emergency; but, I believe, that now those relations are so well understood, that a short period only would elapse before any difficulty arising from that circumstance would be overcome.

5135. Have you any objection to state whether you think 7*s.* a case a sufficient remuneration for the medical officer?—I would rather avoid any thing so specific, because the circumstances must differ very much in different districts, and I think reference must be had to all the circumstances of locality, and especially to this principle, What are the payments made by independent labourers in the district? before you can ascertain what ought to be paid per case for the paupers.

5136. You must be aware that, in many rural districts, the distance of the medical man from the residence of the paupers must be much greater than you have stated it to be in Norfolk and Suffolk; could you, therefore, suggest to the Committee any precise rules to be laid down by them, as to the precise extent of a medical district?—I think it would be impossible to prescribe that, and I think that all that can be expected by a witness before a Committee is, to indicate the principles upon which arrangements might be made; the operation of those principles must be affected very much by local circumstances.

5137. Are you averse to the formation of medical clubs under the control of boards of guardians?—Certainly.

5138. Have you found in any of your unions that the medical officers have ordered a large allowance of meat or other necessaries, in cases where they have not been absolutely necessary, for the paupers?—In one or two unions the boards of guardians have forwarded to me the weekly returns of the medical officers, in order that I might advise the board whether the amount of meat and porter and wine was not extraordinary; in those instances my replies have been, that it appeared to me that if the board of guardians were dissatisfied, they had an opportunity of expressing their dissatisfaction at the termination of the yearly engagement, and that any interference with the discretion of the medical officer during his year's engagement was to be altogether deprecated.

5139. *Chairman.*] If you should find it the case that, in particular parishes of a union, a large allowance of wine and porter and meat should be ordered by the

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the medical man, and that in other parishes, the climate being the same, and the external circumstances the same, and the state of health the same, few such orders were made, should you not think it incumbent upon the board to make some observation upon it?—I think they might, and would call the medical officer before them, and I have known instances in which the expression of dissatisfaction has occurred; but whenever that has occurred, I have also stated that any direct interference with individual cases ought to be avoided; that a general admonition might be given, but an interference with particular cases ought to be avoided. In one case I was called upon by the board of guardians to admonish the medical officer who happened to be present at the meeting of the board. Considerable dissatisfaction had arisen on various grounds—the imperfection with which the returns had been made, and otherwise. Some admonition was conveyed by myself to the medical officer on the subject, at the request of the board, but in that case, as in every other case that I remember, the admonition has not been concerning individual cases, but concerning the general practice.

5140. Mr. *Barneby.*] My question refers to the general practice; as such complaints may have been made in your district, what has been the general rule which you have adopted in those cases; did the board of guardians pass any resolution that the medical men should attend the board after they had given such orders?—I think it desirable that the boards of guardians should, in those instances, request the attendance of the medical officers, and in a courteous manner enter into an explanation with them; and that such a course would be productive of the result desired, that there would be in future no improper use of their discretion.

5141. If the medical man does not attend to those suggestions, what course would you pursue; would you have an order passed, that the medical man should attend the board of guardians always after he had given orders of that kind?—I will state what I think ought to be done, and what I have advised should be done, which is this, that if the medical man and the board of guardians could not agree as to the course to be pursued in those cases, that would be the subject of consideration at the termination of the annual engagement.

5142. Then, if such is your opinion, at the termination of the engagement the medical man would not be again employed; but what suggestion would you make to the Committee in cases where there were only two medical practitioners competent to undertake the care of that union; must you not then resort to the practice of importing a medical man from some other district?—I should hope that, by a kind and courteous intercourse between the boards of guardians and the medical officers, in almost every case that necessity might be obviated; and, if it did arise, it would be to be regarded as a misfortune.

5143. If such a case did arise, you must advertise, or some plan must be adopted, so as to have a person coming from London or from some distant district?—I believe that there may be circumstances that justify that course, but I myself, probably influenced a little by the feeling that I have towards the medical profession, would very much regret to be the instrument of adopting such a proceeding.

5144. Must not that be the case upon the questions I have submitted to you?—Such a necessity might arise.

5145. Must you not, in those cases, have persons from a distance, if it is your wish to carry the law into effect?—If there was an obvious disinclination on the part of the medical officers to adopt the reasonable suggestions of the board of guardians, it must be quite evident to the Committee that the board of guardians must procure, under the circumstances proposed in the previous questions, some person to discharge the duty to the board of guardians.

5146. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is there not, between the board of guardians and the medical officers, a written contract?—Yes.

5147. In that, are not the mutual relations of each party stated?—Yes.

5148. Is it not a usual consequence that if there be a violation of engagements on either side, that there should be a dissolution of the contract altogether?—Certainly.

5149. Do you believe that, if the boards of guardians conform to the conditions of their contracts, the medical practitioner would violate those conditions?—On the contrary, I must say that I think the experience I have had of the conduct of the medical officers under their contracts in Norfolk and Suffolk, shows, in the great majority of instances, the greatest disposition to co-operate with the

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boards of guardians, and, in matters in which there may be a difference of opinion, to yield to the suggestions of the board of guardians.

5150. Have you heard the boards of guardians, in many instances, complain of the conduct of the medical officers?—On the contrary, the answers to questions which I proposed to the chairmen of various unions in Norfolk and Suffolk, were expressive of the greatest and most constant satisfaction with the conduct of the medical officers.

5151. Are you not aware that the conduct which is sometimes pursued towards medical officers is extremely perplexing and annoying?—I believe that, when once a misunderstanding arises, it is very difficult to find a common ground of proceeding; in such cases the board of guardians would have only one course to pursue; to be firm, irrespective of other considerations, in the maintenance of their authority; it is exceedingly important and desirable to avoid any such collision; and, I think, that, by a respectful demeanour towards the medical officers, it may be avoided.

5152. Would it be at all improper that the medical officer, on his part, should be equally firm in seeing that the conditions of his contract are fulfilled?—He ought to protect his own interests.

5153. Mr. *Barneby.*] In the contract made by the medical man there is no statement of wine and meat?—No; but I think it important that the board of guardians should show great respect to the opinions of the medical man on a subject on which his opinion must have greater weight than the opinion of the board; therefore I should deprecate any thing like an absolute interference of the board with individual cases.

5154. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you not think that those frequent orders of meat and wine may arise from the inadequacy of the amount of medical remuneration, and from the necessity of the case requiring the giving of strong and powerful stimulants, which are expensive?—The instances, in my district, in which there has been any observation of that kind are so extremely few, that I do not think that I have any information which would enable me to answer the question in the affirmative.

5155. Mr. *Wakley.*] In relation to the per-case system, do you not consider that where it is adopted it has a tendency to withhold from the paupers the necessary assistance in some cases of difficulty?—The Committee will be kind enough to remember, that in the plan which I suggested there was a provision made for the entire body of paupers in the receipt of out-door relief, that they should have, without orders, medical attendance during a certain specified period, for example, half a year or a year; and that the adoption of a system of payment per case was meant to meet only the cases of casualty, which might occur beyond the list of actual paupers. I believe that if that plan had been adopted in the first instance, great inconvenience would have been experienced, as is supposed, in the question put to me, but that its adoption now will be subject to less inconvenience; and I can conceive arrangements might be made in the course of another year, by which all inconvenience of that kind would be obviated, I mean arrangements between the labourers and the medical men of the district, independently of parochial arrangements.

5156. Mr. *Scrope.*] You stated that you would recommend that the medical relief to the regular poor should be paid for by the parish to which the pauper belongs?—Yes.

5157. If you extended that to the casualties, would not the difficulty to which allusion has been made in the latter questions, arising from the danger of a refusal of orders, be exaggerated, as it would become the interest of each parishioner to make as few orders as possible?—I certainly had it in my mind to make that a parochial charge.

5158. Mr. *Barneby.*] In the arrangements, do you pay the medical officers who attend the workhouse separately from the charge of attending the out-door paupers?—Two plans have been adopted; in one plan the medical officers who are resident in the vicinity of the workhouse attend in rotation as a part of their duty for three months in the year, or longer; in other cases a medical officer is appointed with a separate salary; I am not prepared to state which plan is most advantageous; perhaps one is suited to one district and the other to another district.

5159. Do

5159. Do you see any objection to this plan, that the medical officer who attends the workhouse should be paid by a salary for attending the paupers in that workhouse, and that the other medical men who attend the out-paupers should be paid so much per case?—I do not, with the view that I have previously stated, that that payment per case should be for casualties only.

5160. *Chairman.*] What, in your opinion, would be the most equitable way of distributing the charge for medical attendance among the several parishes of the union?—I believe that that charge ought to bear a direct and exact relation to the number of cases attended in each particular parish; and the reason why I proposed to the Committee the plan of separating the out-door paupers from the rest of the inhabitants, and forming them into a class, was for the purpose of procuring, first of all, the means of estimating the salary of the medical officers, and, secondly, distributing that charge for that class of cases; I apprehend that it would be found, that, after a short time had elapsed, very few persons beyond those who are in the receipt of out-door relief would be applicants for or recipients of medical relief, and that, if they were, it would be easy to add them to the permanent class; thus widows with large families, I mean those supporting themselves, or men with large families, supporting themselves, or any other class, might be admitted into the class of persons who were to receive medical relief in the parish, the charge being borne by the parish. Provision would thus be made for all classes in which ordinary necessity existed for medical attendance; those cases which were exceptions to such a rule, and which would certainly from time to time occur, might, I think, be made the subject of a payment per case, which payment, in my opinion, ought to be borne by the particular parish to which the casual pauper belongs. The charge of paupers resident beyond the limits of their own union, of course, would be borne by the parish in which they lived. As to the case of casualty, a difficulty was suggested in the question put to me which had occurred to me before, but the means of escaping it were new; but my present impression is, that the charge ought to be parochial in all cases; at the same time, the suggestion made in the question appears to be worthy of consideration.

5161. Would you meet the difficulty suggested in the question by throwing an additional responsibility upon the parish officers for refusing an order in a case of casualty?—I think the difficulty might be met in this way, that in a case of casualty the officer might be entrusted with discretion to order, at a smaller cost, medical attendance up to the next meeting of the board of guardians, and that then payment per case should ensue, after the board of guardians had exercised its discretion in the particular case, in addition to the small payment made for the days intervening between the issue of the order by the parochial officer and the meeting of the board.

5162. The interference of the officer in that case would be similar to that in a case of sudden and urgent necessity; he would give relief upon the same principle as any other relief, upon his view of the urgency and necessity of the case, and the board of guardians would afterwards determine upon it?—Yes.

5163. Mr. *Miles.*] Should not the per-case system be matter of arrangement between the medical practitioners and the board?—Of course it would be matter of arrangement, in the same way as the salary is now a matter of arrangement between the board and the medical practitioners; and I think it very desirable that information should be obtained from all quarters, in order that the board of guardians might proceed upon such an arrangement to determine the cost per case equitably.

5164. You would also advise that an understanding should be come to between the board of guardians and the medical practitioners as to casualties?—Yes.

5165. Should not the per-case system apply both to the paupers of the parish and paupers extra-parochial?—It ought to include the non-resident poor belonging to other unions, as well as those who are resident in the parish, who belong to the union; it appears to me inexpedient that there should be any difficulty in the case of casualty in obtaining medical relief, and therefore all poor persons belonging to any union would receive medical relief in the parishes in which they resided; and where they belonged to one parish in the union, and resided in another, the parish to which they belonged would bear the expense of the medical attendance.

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5166. Mr. *Barneby.*] Will you give your opinion upon the following plan of remunerating medical officers; that one medical officer should be appointed to the workhouse at a salary which should be charged to the establishment; that for his attendance upon all cases of out-door paupers he should be paid so much per head, which shall be charged to the parish to which the pauper belongs; that each order shall be produced to the board of guardians at their weekly meeting, who shall determine whether the orders were properly given or not, and, if they shall think that the order was improperly given, that the board of guardians shall have the power of charging it as a loan to the person who is attended, or give the power to the medical officer to recover the payment from the person whom he attends?—The plan proposed would meet my views, with this exception, that it does not appear to me that it would be necessary for the board of guardians to take into their consideration any orders given to parties in receipt of out-door relief, but that all such persons might be permitted to receive medical relief without orders; but the orders given to persons beyond the list of persons receiving out-door relief, or the list of persons for whom medical attendance was to be given for a half-year or a year, would, in the plan I propose, be the subject of consideration at the next meeting of the board of guardians, and they would determine whether the orders were rightly given or not; in case the board of guardians thought that they were not rightly given, it would appear to me very expedient that the relief should be made by way of loan.

5167. You approve of the charge being upon the parish, and not upon the establishment?—Certainly; and in case of the attendance upon the workhouse, I think it might be made an establishment charge.

5168. *Chairman.*] How would you distribute the medical charge, in reference to the poor in the workhouse?—I would make that an establishment charge, giving the medical officer a salary for the attendance upon the workhouse for the period for which it might be desirable to make the arrangement. I know that medical gentlemen resident in the unions value the attendance upon workhouses and establishments of that description, as they afford opportunities of observing disease and the effect of remedies, which they cannot obtain in the houses of the poorer classes; and I am quite certain that those privileges are not liable to the abuse which may be supposed by persons out of the profession, but that they rightly discharge their duties when they have also other objects in view. I would therefore say, that I would not positively determine that only one medical officer should attend during the entire year; but, seeing that it is deemed desirable by the profession, I would allow a medical officer to attend for part of the year, and another to attend for another part of the year, in particular cases.

5169. You would not prescribe it as a rule to be generally acted upon?—Certainly not.

5170. If a union had engaged a medical man for six months, and had great reason to be satisfied with his conduct, you would not wish them to change him?—My only object is not to encounter those feelings of rivalry, on the part of the medical practitioners, which interfere with their kindly relations in society.

5171. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you not find that, when a medical officer anxiously discharges his duty, he in a short time obtains the confidence of the paupers; and do you not think it would be an evil to remove such a man from them?—I think the qualities of medical men resident in the union are well known to the inhabitants, and if there were any person whose attendance was objected to by the poor, he certainly ought not to be a person selected for the duties of the workhouse.

5172. *Chairman.*] Have you any statement to make with respect to the mortality in the workhouses?—I have a statement of the average number of each class in the workhouse, and the total number of deaths in each class, and the ages at which they died, stating the unions in the margin of the tables; I think it may be important, in elucidation of some tables that I previously put in, that those tables should be comprised in the evidence of the Committee.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, No. 10, p. 23.]

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

Appendix, No. 1.

INFORMATION derived from CLERKS of UNIONS respecting SALARIES of MEDICAL OFFICERS in Incorporations under Local Acts before the interference of the Commissioners, and in Unions or in Incorporations since the interference of the Commissioners.

Name of Old Incorporation included in Union.	Population.	Annual Salary of Medical Officers.	Ratio to Population.	NAME of NEW UNION.	Population.	Salary of Medical Officers per Ann.	Ratio to Population.
Incorporated Hundreds of		£.	d.			£.	d.
Mitford and Launditch	24,134	- -	5	Mitford & Launditch Union	27,694	500	4¼
Stow - - -	8,308	170	4¾	Stow Union - - -	18,308	356	4½
Loddon and Clavering	14,068	160	2¾	Loddon & Clavering Union	14,068	210	3½
Wangford - - -	13,605	160	2¾	Wangford Union - -	13,234	172	3
East and West Flegg	7,210	80	2½	Fleggs Hundreds - -	7,210	100	3¼
Colneis and Carlford	10,717	168	3¼	Woodbridge Union -	22,163	400	4¼
Forehoe - - -	13,838	141	2½	Forehoe Hundred - -	13,838	175	3
Great Yarmouth (parish)	21,115	60	not ¾	Great Yarmouth Parish -	21,115	120	1¼
Tunstead and Happing	17,039	200	2¾	Tunstead and Happing Hundreds - -	17,039	213. 8s.	3
Bosmere and Claydon	12,956	250	4½	Bosmere & Claydon Union	15,857	300	4½

Appendix, No. 2.

Appendix, No. 2.

INFORMATION supplied chiefly by CHAIRMEN of UNIONS, concerning the DISTRICTS of MEDICAL OFFICERS, *Norfolk*; Year ending March 1837.

NAME of UNION.	NAME of MEDICAL OFFICER.	No. of Parishes attended by each Officer.	Area of each Officer's District in English Statute Acres.	Population of each Officer's District.	
Aylsham - - -	Mr. Girling - - -	7	14,510	2,999	
	Wordingham - -	6	12,700	3,602	
	Copeman - - -	13	15,790	5,086	
	Saunders - - -	11	16,980	5,593	
	Hacon - - -	9	8,090	2,071	
Blofield - - -	Mr. T. E. Clarke - -	15	29,580	4,865	Great extent of marsh land.
	Peter Eade - -	16	17,410	4,948	- ditto - ditto.
Depwade - - -	Mr. Crisp - - -	5	7,630	3,697	
	Garnies - - -	1	2,370	580	
	Webb - - -	1	2,960	759	
	Miles - - -	7	13,780	3,929	
	Ward - - -	1	1,070	272	
	Dr. Wharton - -	3	5,470	3,638	
	Mr. Rose - - -	3	4,820	1,303	
	Mines - - -	1	1,070	617	
	Barton - - -	7	8,410	2,663	
	Tunally - - -	1	1,030	471	
	Howard - - -	3	8,320	2,513	
	Utting - - -	9	11,190	3,754	
Docking - - -	Mr. Church - - -	12	27,370	5,821	
	Wells - - -	14	26,740	4,913	
	Davis - - -	10	27,320	4,642	
Downham - - -	Mr. Wales - - -	9	28,580	6,042	Marsh and waste.
	Hunter - - -	1	3,950	739	
	Johnson - - -	12	26,460	4,059	- ditto - ditto.
	Dr. Paterson - -	3	8,510	1,292	
	Mr. Steele - - -	8	19,750	4,222	
Erpingham - -	Mr. Coleby - - -	5	9,580	4,012	
	Prentice - - -	8	9,890	2,673	
	Earle - - -	17	18,450	5,564	
	Hagon - - -	5	4,100	1,015	
	Banks - - -	14	24,510	6,751	
St. Faith's - -	Mr. Cooper - - -	8	9,600	3,157	
	Messrs. Taylor & Co. -	6	9,450	2,517	
	Mr. Harris - - -	6	14,460	2,813	
	Owen - - -	4	7,980	1,290	
	Wordingham - -	6	6,590	1,349	
Freebridge Lynn - -	Mr. Joy - - -	10	25,760	3,834	Marsh, or barren land.
	Whiting - - -	6	11,500	1,839	
	Headley - - -	9	22,160	3,803	Marsh.
	Buller - - -	7	11,590	2,013	
Guiltcross - - -	Mr. H. Howard - -	3	8,370	2,699	
	P. Dent - - -	7	15,410	4,413	
	C. Morgan - -	4	6,890	1,317	
	T. Postle - - -	3	8,300	1,429	
	Messrs. Wharton & Co. -	4	7,020	2,015	

(*continued.*)

Appendix, No. 2.

NAME of UNION.	NAME of MEDICAL OFFICER.	No. of Parishes attended by each Officer.	Area of each Officer's District in English Statute Acres.	Population of each Officers' District.	
DISTRICTS of Medical Officers, *Norfolk*; Year ending March 1837—*continued.*					
Henstead	Mr. Gowing	10	8,470	1,939	
	W. H. Taylor	9	8,880	2,116	
	Tunaley	8	13,150	3,088	
	Merry	10	11,480	3,596	
King's Lynn	Mr. Buller Chadwick Murlin Whiting	4	5,410	13,820	
Loddon and Clavering	Mr. Dashwood	10	16,500	3,167	
	Pedgrift	10	14,410	3,556	
	Larke	11	11,080	2,878	
	Currie	10	14,050	4,139	Proposed Arrangement.
Mitford and Launditch	Mr. Rix	12	22,640	5,016	1st district 17,590 - 4,785
	Warcup	10 ½	21,725	5,876	2d – 13,160 - 3,378
	Daveney	11	19,420	5,117	3d – 6,830 - 4,447
	Raven Overton	15	25,350	5,250	4th – 21,250 - 4,143 5th – 24,120 - 4,888
	Hopson	7	14,020	3,592	6th – 12,340 - 2,452
	Pillans	4 ½	6,645	2,735	7th – 14,510 - 3,493
Swaffham	Mr. Rose	11 ½	32,935	4,102	- - Very extensive commons and wastes.
	Steele	3	5,650	547	ditto - ditto.
	Whitby	15 ½	36,545	6,325	
	Emerson	3	8,480	1,811	
Thetford	Mr. Best	9	30,550	3,399	Open barren country.
	Bailey	7	20,140	2,100	ditto - ditto.
	Roberts	3	14,310	2,836	ditto - ditto.
	Archer	3	35,740	3,375	ditto - ditto.
	Joy	2	6,750	1,182	
	Morgan	5	7,410	1,959	
	Luffingham	2	2,810	865	
	Green	2	2,680	482	
Walsingham	Mr. Young	7	16,220	6,236	
	Buck	4	6,570	1,471	
	Damant	21	28,570	6,741	
	Messrs. Adcock	12	18,950	4,554	
	Mr. Banks	4	5,390	1,306	
	Ellis	2	2,130	591	
Wayland	Mr. Potter	8	15,900	4,436	
	Hargreaves	6	11,740	3,123	
	French	3	6,730	917	
	Postle	8	16,160	2,167	
	87	-	1,129,060	266,003	
	Average	-	12,977	3,057	

INFORMATION supplied chiefly by Chairmen of Unions, respecting the Districts of Medical Officers, *Suffolk*; Year ending March 1837.

Blything	Mr. Walker	7	12,300	2,766	
	Rudkin	3	6,030	2,420	
	Lanchester	4	6,860	1,424	
	Packard	8	13,670	5,654	
	Lay	10	14,970	2,998	
	Primrose	5	8,000	2,161	
	Sutherland	2	3,320	2,154	
	King	4	7,390	2,326	
	Turner	6	15,460	3,400	
Bosmere and Claydon	Mr. Beck	15	18,540	4,364	Barking is set at 2,000 acres. Needham at 1,000 acres.
	Blomfield	13	16,690	5,664	
	Pennington	6	13,520	2,601	
	Gross	1	1,560	375	
	Lock	4	6,070	2,953	
Cosford	Mr. J. Growse	2 ½	5,430	2,408	
	Mudd	2 ½	5,820	2,701	
	R. Growse	4	4,090	1,439	
	Lawton	11	17,370	5,609	
	Vincent	8	18,600	5,743	
Hartismere	Mr. Harris	8	15,610	5,333	
	Edwards	13	17,180	6,686	
	Cuthbert	11	22,090	5,752	

DISTRICTS of MEDICAL OFFICERS, *Suffolk*; Year ending March 1837—*continued*.

NAME of UNION.	NAME of MEDICAL OFFICER.	No. of Parishes attended by each Officer.	Area of each Officer's District, in English Statute Acres.	Population of each Officer's District.	
Hoxne	Mr. Willson	2	3,700	769	
	Gross	2	2,610	756	
	Lock	1	1,680	332	
	Lanchester	2	6,630	2,158	
	Rudkin	1	3,390	866	
	Aldis	4	8,300	2,516	
	Messrs. Mayhew & Gooch	12	23,820	8,099	
Ipswich	Mr. Bullen	5	- - -	6,995	
	Francis	3	7,020	6,383	
	Sampson	6	- - -	7,076	
Mildenhall	Mr. Payne	7 ½	21,835	4,080	Open barren country.
	Primrose	4 ½	33,765	3,772	ditto - ditto.
	Bailey	1	5,290	248	
Plomesgate	Mr. Muriel	7	12,920	3,847	
	Randall	7	18,000	3,708	
	Gross	6	9,770	2,372	
	Jeaffreson	5	10,470	3,871	
	King	8	10,500	3,698	
	Freeman	7	10,450	3,208	
Risbridge	Messrs. Eastcott & Robinson	5	8,280	2,342	
	Mr. H. Martin	2	4,090	2,237	
	Brown	1	3,460	1,080	
	Messrs. Martin & Barnes	3	6,490	2,405	
	Mr. Crown	6	12,460	3,126	
	Dunthorn	4	9,210	2,979	
	Collins	5	8,580	1,983	
Stow	Mr. Kent	8	14,810	4,004	
	M'Intyre	1	550	330	
	Basham	3	5,580	1,547	
	Luffingham	1	1,750	405	
	Harris	1	1,510	465	
	Slaytor	3	5,380	1,777	
	White	3	5,290	1,661	
	Bree	7	11,390	2,666	
	Freeman	7	10,600	5,453	- - The area of a small parish in this district (Creeting St. Peter) cannot be ascertained.
Sudbury	Mr. King	9	17,620	5,887	
	Messrs. Cream & Jones	8	15,020	5,185	
	Mr. Mason	10	8,680	6,802	
	Barnes	9	17,620	4,781	
	Symmons	8	17,440	5,543	
Thingoe	Mr. Green	6	15,270	4,401	
	Image	5	8,970	1,797	
	Dunthorn	2	2,550	624	
	Barber	5	10,580	2,274	
	M'Intyre	7	16,000	2,258	
	Hubbard	6	7,330	1,777	
	Creed	6	11,760	1,882	
	Pyman	9	12,360	1,909	
Wangford	Mr. Tyson	13	19,050	6,581	
	Currie	15	16,000	6,477	
Woodbridge	Mr. Acton	12	14,310	4,622	
	Cowell	1	2,720	568	
	Moore	10 ½	15,525	5,192	
	Wilkin	5	8,280	2,462	
	Weeding	8	18,160	3,245	
	Welton	9 ½	13,765	5,773	
	78	- - -	824,160	256,185	
	AVERAGE	- - -	10,566	3,284	

Appendix, No. 3.

Appendix, No. 3.

INFORMATION derived from CLERKS of UNIONS, respecting Number of duly qualified resident Medical Practitioners in each Union, &c. &c.

NAME of UNION.	Number of Medical Officers employed by Union.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified who are resident in the Union.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified and resident in the Union, who are Medical Officers.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified, and resident in the Union, who are not Medical Officers, but who reside in the same Parish with one of the Medical Officers.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified, and resident in the Union, who are not Medical Officers, and who do not reside in the same Parish with a Medical Officer.	Number of Practitioners duly qualified, who are Medical Officers of the Union for adjacent Parishes, though resident beyond the limits of the Union.
Aylsham	7	10	5	4	1	2
Blofield	3	5	3	2	–	–
Depwade	–	–	–	–	–	–
Docking	3	10	3	5	2	–
Downham	5	9	5	2	2	–
Erpingham	5	10	5	3	2	–
St. Faith's	5	2	1	1	–	4
Fleggs	3	3	3	–	–	–
Forehoe	4	5	2	2	1	2
Freebridge Lynn	4	4	2	–	2	2
Guiltcross	5	3	3	–	–	2
Henstead	4	2	1	–	1	3
Loddon and Clavering	4	2	2	–	–	2
Mitford and Launditch	6	11	6	5	–	–
Swaffham	4	3	2	1	–	2
Thetford	8	8	8	–	–	–
Tunstead and Happing	3	5	3	2	–	–
Walsingham	7	9	5	4	–	2
Wayland	4	6	3	3	–	1
Blything	12	17	11	6	–	1
Bosmere and Claydon	6	5	5	–	–	1
Cosford	5	8	5	2	1	–
Hartismere	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hoxne	9	5	4	–	1	5
Mildenhall	3	4	2	2	–	1
Plomesgate	6	11	6	5	–	–
Risbridge	8	9	8	1	–	–
Samford	5	6	3	3	–	2
Stow	9	9	6	3	–	3
Sudbury	6	13	5	5	3	1
Thingoe	7	2	2	–	–	5
Wangford	2	13	2	11	–	–
Woodbridge	7	13	6	6	1	1
	169	222	127	78	17	42
King's Lynn	4	10	4	6	–	–
Ipswich	3	24	3	21	–	–

Number of Medical Officers employed by Unions – 169
Number of Practitioners duly qualified who are resident in the Unions – 222
Number of Practitioners duly qualified and resident in the Union, who are Medical Officers – 127
Number of Practitioners duly qualified and resident in the Union, who are not Medical Officers, but who reside in the same Parish with one of the Medical Officers – 78
Number of Practitioners duly qualified and resident in the Union, who are not Medical Officers, but who do not reside in the same Parish with a Medical Officer – 17
Number of Practitioners duly qualified who are Medical Officers of the Union for adjacent Parishes, though resident beyond the limits of the Union – 42

Appendix, No. 4.

Dear Sir,

Appendix, No. 4.

In consequence of certain questions lately transmitted to the different boards of guardians, relative to the medical arrangements of the unions, I am induced to believe that a brief account of a medical club established here three quarters of a year ago may be interesting to you, particularly as it has been in a great degree successful, and shows the practicability of the plan in a country district. On the 15th July 1836, several of our neighbouring clergy and gentry held a meeting at Coltishall, for the purpose of forming an independent medical club for the benefit of the labouring population of Coltishall and the adjoining parishes; and I have enclosed a copy of the rules and regulations passed at the time. The following is a table containing the names of some of the parishes, their population, the number of free subscribers, and the number of cases of sickness which have been attended, from the commencement of the club to the present time.

PARISH.	Population.	No. of Subscribers.	No. of Sick.
Belaugh	151	14	6
Coltishall	868	33	64
Horstead	593	34	44
Lammas	275	12	13
Wroxham	368	44	21
Stratton	218	16	25
Scottow	460	34	32
Frettenham	269	32	31
Hautbois	141	10	13
	3,343	229	249

In the number of sick are included 27 cases of Midwifery.

There

There are a few subscribers in Hevingham, Sco-Ruston, Salhouse, &c.; and the total number of persons who have received medical assistance from the club, including all the parishes, is 263. Such a statement cannot, I think, fail to prove the prosperous condition of an institution of so recent formation; and the degree of benefit derived by the free members during sickness is striking, both as to the number relieved, and also as regards the generally successful issue of the cases, attributable probably to the unrestricted and early application for medical advice; I am sorry to say, that in the parish of Frettenham some dissatisfaction has arisen, in consequence of one or two families having received, during the influenza, notes for the attendance of the parish doctor, they being at the time not on the pauper list, but in the receipt of weekly wages; and I have heard that the number of subscribers will in consequence be much reduced at the ensuing quarter. Of course, if a man with a wife and family earning perhaps 9*s.* a week, finds that he can have a note from a relieving officer for medical assistance, it is scarcely to be expected that he will pay to a club; and he cannot be blamed for not doing so. To draw a line between those who are entitled to the services of the district surgeon, and those who are to provide themselves with medical assistance, is a point that seems attended with great difficulty, but it is one of great importance as regards the success of the medical club system; I should imagine that the experience already possessed by the boards of guardians since the working of the new Act, would enable them pretty nearly to decide individually who are and who are not proper objects for parochial medical relief in their several unions, and that generally speaking, where clubs are in existence, and the relieving officers sufficiently careful, they can act determinately in the matter; but even then a difficulty remains, which does not seem to be so easy of removal; a man in the receipt of regular weekly wages subscribes to a medical club for himself and family; if his wife or his children are ill, he applies without delay to the surgeon, procures advice and medicines, and preserves his independence; but should he himself happen to be the sick person, how are his wife and children to be maintained during his illness?—his earnings are stopped, he has most probably saved nothing, and although he has provided himself with medical assistance, he must for the sake of his family become a pauper, and apply to his parish for relief; and if for one form of relief, why not for another? This case has happened to me several times, and I have been obliged to certify the illness of members of our club, in order to procure them relief from the board. Indeed in the new form for the weekly medical returns in the Aylsham Union, there is a column headed, "If belonging to any medical club;" this is an objection frequently brought forward against the establishment of *independent* medical clubs, and if a remedy could be found, there is no doubt but the result would be beneficial. Could the difficulty be met by any plan of affording temporary relief by loan? For the success of independent medical clubs two things seem to be of primary importance. 1. That the free subscriptions be not on too low a scale; this would be "substituting one form of assistance for another, and thus disguising the dependence of the poor;" besides, the remuneration to the surgeon, if limited to the amount of the free subscriptions, would be too low to urge him to any active co-operation in the business. 2. That one general plan, modified only according to circumstances, be universally adopted, so as to prevent competition and rivalry; for if one club has one scale of charges, and another a higher or lower one, one set of rules, and a second regulations of a different nature, they can never become very general, and if not general, they cannot be equally useful; I would also suggest, (and some few circumstances lead me to think it a point of no little importance), that independent medical clubs should not be under the control or superintendence of the boards of guardians; it is highly desirable that the boards should sanction and devise their formation, and perhaps also propose a plan for their regulation, but not that they should take a part either in the choice of the medical officers or in the general management of their affairs.

Appendix, No. 4.

I remain, &c.

Coltishall, April 7th, 1837. *E. Copeman.*

Appendix, No. 5.

Appendix, No. 5.

At a MEETING held the 15th day of July 1836, at *Coltishall*, Robert Marsham, Esq. in the Chair, and present,

The Rev. John Taylor.	The Rev. John Lubbock.
The Rev. Jex Blake.	John Longe, Esq.
The Rev. James Shirley.	Robert Hawes, Esq.
The Rev. George Howes.	Edmund Henry Lyon, Esq.
The Rev. William Heath Marsh.	

It was Resolved,—

First.—That a self-supporting medical club be established for the parishes of Coltishall, Horstead, Hautbois, Haynford, Buxton, Belaugh, Crostwick, Frettenham, Lammas-with-Little-Hautbois, Salhouse, Scottow, Stratton Strawless, Hevingham, Wroxham and Hoveton St. John.

Second.—That the clergy, landowners and occupiers in the above parishes be requested to aid, by their benefactions and subscriptions, the maintenance of such medical club, and to encourage the labouring classes of their parishes to become free members.

Third.—That all persons subscribing 5*s.* and upwards annually be honorary members, but not entitled to any of the benefits of the society.

Appendix, No. 5.

Fourth.—That all of the labouring class, both male and female, whose earnings shall not exceed, upon an average, 21*s.* per week, be allowed to become free members of this medical club, and thus to ensure to themselves medical and surgical attendance and medicine during sickness.

Fifth.—That all servants living in farm-houses and in tradesmen's families be allowed to become free members of this medical club.

Sixth.—That the following scale of payments, weekly or quarterly, shall entitle such persons to become free members :—

	Per Week.		Per Quarter.
	d.		*s.* *d.*
Every person without a child	1	or	1 –
Every widow or widower with one child under 16 years of age	1	or	1 –
Every widow or widower with two, or three, children under 16	1½	or	1 6
Every widow or widower with more than three children under 16	2	or	1 9
Every man and his wife	1½	or	1 6
Every man and his wife with not more than three children under 16	2	or	1 9
Every man and his wife with more than three children under 16	2½	or	2 3*

Seventh.—That the wife of a free member, who subscribes for himself and his wife, may be attended in her confinement, on paying, three weeks before the time at which she expects to be confined, 7*s.* 6*d.*; the honorary fund paying in addition thereto 2*s.* 6*d.*

Eighth.—That the free members of the club shall be entitled to have their children vaccinated free of all charge; but if any refuse to have their children vaccinated, they shall not be entitled to attendance in case the small-pox should attack their families.

Ninth.—That any person be permitted to subscribe for his aged parents (if unable to work, and from want of sufficient means of subsistence obliged to live with his family) on the terms prescribed for a man and his wife, and children under 16, viz. counting the parents as children.

Tenth.—That the weekly payments be made regularly every Monday; and the quarterly payments on the 6th of January, the 5th of April, the 6th of July, and the 11th of October. (Except in Frettenham and Hautbois, all the payments are quarterly.)

Eleventh.—That any free member in arrear, more than one month, shall forfeit all claim to the benefit of this society.

Twelfth.—That the honorary fund be employed for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the institution, *exclusive of medicines and attendance*; but, should any surplus arise, that it be applied for the benefit of the free members in any way the committee may determine. (Out of this fund the surgeons are allowed to provide wine, broth, &c. for patients in cases of urgent necessity.)

Thirteenth.—That sick members shall furnish their own bottles; and, when able, shall attend on the medical man, before ten in the morning, who will visit them at their own houses when they are unable to attend.

Fourteenth.—That the clergy and gentry be requested to receive the subscriptions of the free members, and to pay them, with the names of the subscribers, into the hands of the secretary, by whom it is paid over to the surgeons.

Fifteenth.—That the committee consist of the members present, and any other honorary members who may be willing to assist.

Sixteenth.—That there be a meeting of the committee on the Thursday previous to each of the above-named quarter-days, at the White Horse, Coltishall, at eleven o'clock, A.M.

Seventeenth.—That Mr. Hawes be requested to be the treasurer.

Eighteenth.—That Messrs. Taylor & Copeman be appointed surgeons to this medical club.

Nineteenth.—That the honorary subscriptions commence from the 6th of July, and the quarterly subscriptions of the free members from the same date.

Twentieth.—That Alfred Bacon be appointed secretary to this society, with a salary of 1*l.* per quarter.

Twenty-first.—That 500 copies of the above resolutions be printed for circulation in the respective parishes in this district.

List of Honorary Subscribers.

	£.	*s.*		£.	*s.*
The Rev. William Abbott, Horstead	2	–	The Rev. John Lubbock, Scottow	1	–
Mrs. Archer, Coltishall	1	–	E. H. Lyon, esq., Horstead	2	–
Mrs. Burroughes, Hoveton	2	–	Robert Marsham, esq., Stratton	2	–
The Rev. Jex Blake, Lammas	1	–	The Rev. W. Heath Marsh, Lammas	1	–
Thomas Blake, D.C.L., Horstead	2	–	Emily Dowager Lady Suffield, Horstead	3	–
The Rev. George Howes, Spixworth	1	–	The Rev. James Shirley, Frettenham	2	–
Robert Hawes, esq., Coltishall	2	–	The Rev. John Taylor, Haynford	1	–
Mrs. Hawes, Coltishall	2	–	The Rev. Dr. Ward, Coltishall	2	–
The Rev. W. Arnold, W. Keppel, Haynford	2	–	J. W. Lyon Winder, esq., Horstead	2	–†
John Longe, esq., Spixworth	2	–		33	–

* At the next quarterly meeting I intend to propose reducing the last-mentioned sum to 2*s.* per quarter for the benefit of large families.—*E. C.*

† This fund has increased since the circulars were printed, and amounts to rather more than 50*l.*

Appendix, No. 6.

Samuel Armstrong, Surgeon, Melton.

Appendix, No. 6.

I HAVE established medical clubs in Melton, Ufford, Bradfield and Dallinghoo, all of them parishes of the Woodbridge Union. When the board of guardians was first established, at Michaelmas 1835, I had 200 heads of families and 127 single persons as subscribers. The rate of payment, when I first established the clubs, was too low; I admitted this low payment to give the system a trial, it being understood that the payment should be increased if it did not succeed. The charge at first was 5*s.* per annum for married labourers and their families, and 2*s.* 6*d.* for the single. In consequence of Mr. Shawe's not thinking this payment sufficient, I raised the charge to 8*s.* 8*d.* the married, and 4*s.* 4*d.* the single.

Many of those who were first subscribers to the medical club are now attended as private patients, paying at the same rate as I should charge to any member of the middle classes; others are also now attended as private patients, but at an inferior rate of payment. I have only admitted this inferior rate lately; I was afraid of getting them on my books, and that they might find they could not pay me, and that thus an unkindly feeling might be created between us; but I found that they made the payments regularly. In some instances the children who had come to visit their parents from Dorsetshire, Kent, Wiltshire and other counties, called upon me at Whitsuntide, and paid what their parents owed me, requesting that I would attend them again whenever they were ill, and promising to secure me the payment of my bill.

The subscribers to my clubs are now somewhat fewer than they were a year ago, which I attribute to the great facility with which medical relief is obtained from the board of guardians of the Woodbridge Union; and the increased rate of payment demanded has perhaps occasioned more of the labourers to apply to the Woodbridge board; my private patients among the labourers have also increased; all which circumstances have tended to diminish the number of subscribers to my clubs. I probably have not been so punctual in collecting the payments from the subscribers.

Nothing in this district could prevent the complete success of the medical clubs but the facility afforded the labourers of obtaining medical relief from the unions. The inhabitants in my district are chiefly agricultural labourers; there are a few mechanics in Melton; the labourers entered the clubs most cheerfully; I never heard any complaint from them that they were obliged to provide medical relief for themselves; they have always, when they brought the money to me, expressed great gratitude for my services, and said they feared the payment was too little for my attention to them.

The subscribers to the clubs are much more pleasant patients than the same class when paupers. When they receive an order from the parish they are seldom satisfied; whatever attention is paid to them they expect much more, and even when much more is done for them they find fault with the attendance. They have such an abhorrence of the parish doctor, that they would treat Sir Astley Cooper in the same way, if he were resident in the country.

When the labourers are subscribers to medical clubs, confidence is established between the medical officer and his patients; the labourer feels himself indebted to the medical officer for attendance at a low charge, and he is grateful for it; and the officer is probably impressed with a clearer view of his interest, and a stricter sense of duty, when he is serving individuals than when he is the servant of the public.

It is a quality of the attendance afforded in the unions that some delay must occur in getting orders; this does not occur to medical clubs. It is the interest of the medical practitioner to give the most prompt attention to his subscribers, and they can call upon him at any moment without the intervention of an order from the union or the overseers.

The poor have abundant security for the careful attendance of the medical officers; they can invite another medical gentleman to settle in the district, if they are dissatisfied; but the most powerful means they possess to prevent a medical man from neglecting them consists in the opportunity they have of promoting his success among the middle and inferior classes, by the statements they make concerning his skill and attention, or of procuring his disgrace by a report of his neglect and want of success.

The complaints of paupers were so common that they had little effect, in the former administration of the law, and were generally disregarded.

The remuneration afforded by the medical clubs is certainly greater than can be procured from the casual payments of labourers, because the smaller but more regular payment from the whole class exceeds the casual payments of individuals.

S. Armstrong.

Appendix, No. 7.

ANALYSIS of the EXPENDITURE of the *Coventry* SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARY, from 18th July 1831 to 25th March 1837.

PERIOD.	Number of Cases attended.	Surgeons' Salaries.	Medicine.	Surgical Instruments.	Dispenser's Salary.	TOTAL.	Average Cost per Case for Medicine, Surgical Instruments, and Surgeon's and Dispenser's Salaries.	OTHER EXPENSES. Secretary's Salary.	Carriage, Postage, Printing, Advertising, Stationery, &c.	Repairs, Alterations and Painting.	Coals, Candles, Insurance and Rent.	Poor and Church Rates.	Boys' Wages.	TOTAL.	Aggregate Total.	Average Cost per Case, computed on the Aggregate Total.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
From 18 July 1831					10 – –	166 7 11	2 $2\frac{1}{2}$	20 – –	24 12 10	- -	13 17 10	3 11 –	- -	62 1 8	228 9 7	3 $-\frac{1}{4}$
To 25 March 1832 -	1,505	80 17 8	45 10 3	30 – –	38 6 8	410 4 5	3 $4\frac{1}{2}$	27 15 $8\frac{1}{2}$	28 4 $11\frac{1}{2}$	- -	24 19 5	13 7 –	- -	94 7 1	504 11 6	4 $1\frac{1}{2}$
To 25 March 1833 -	2,437	263 1 5	103 2 4	5 14 –	40 – –	421 5 10	5 $-\frac{1}{2}$	28 19 6	27 12 6	- -	26 3 4	7 6 10	3 – –	93 2 2	514 8 –	6 2
To 25 March 1834 -	1,668	268 – –	112 12 –	– 13 10	60 – –	435 13 1	5 4	- -	27 4 7	21 12 –	31 5 $2\frac{1}{2}$	3 12 –	7 7 6	91 1 $3\frac{1}{2}$	526 14 $4\frac{1}{2}$	6 $5\frac{1}{2}$
To 25 March 1835 -	1,629	287 2 –	88 11 1	- -	60 – –	421 7 $6\frac{1}{2}$	5 $7\frac{1}{4}$	- -	18 19 $10\frac{1}{2}$	4 11 11	29 10 $10\frac{1}{2}$	3 14 –	7 16 –	64 12 8	486 – $2\frac{1}{2}$	6 $5\frac{3}{4}$
To 25 March 1836 -	1,500	262 3 –	95 6 3	3 18 $3\frac{1}{2}$	60 – –	418 3 –	5 $5\frac{1}{2}$	- -	19 14 11	2 6 –	29 16 11	1 18 –	7 16 –	61 11 10	479 14 10	6 $3\frac{1}{4}$
To 25 March 1837 -	1,530	261 15 –	90 7 1	6 – 11	60 – –	2,273 1 $9\frac{1}{2}$	4 5								2,739 18 6	5 4
	10,269															

Appendix, No. 8.

STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE of the *Burton-upon-Trent* SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARY, for the Years ending 31st October 1836 and 31st October 1837.

PERIOD.	Number of Cases attended.	Surgeons' Salaries.	Medicine and Medical Appliances.	Dispenser's Salary, including Coals, Candles, and Care of Linen.	TOTAL.	Average Cost per Case for Medicine and Medical Appliances, and Surgeon's and Dispenser's Salaries.	OTHER EXPENSES. Secretary's Salary.	Rent.	Printing and Incidental Expenses.	TOTAL.	Aggregate Total.	Average Cost per Case, computed on the Aggregate Total.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Year ending					324 4 5	4 $5\frac{1}{4}$	5 – –	14 6 8	6 19 4	26 6 –	350 10 5	4 $9\frac{1}{2}$
31 October - - - 1836	1,460	160 5 4	106 17 4	57 1 9	294 11 8	4 $5\frac{3}{4}$	5 – –	17 – –	6 13 4	28 13 4	323 5 –	4 11
31 October - - - 1837	1,310	127 6 9	104 14 11	62 10 –	618 16 1	4 $5\frac{1}{2}$					673 15 5	4 $10\frac{1}{4}$
	2,770											

Appendix, No. 9.

ANALYSIS of the EXPENDITURE of the *Derby* SELF-SUPPORTING CHARITABLE AND PAROCHIAL DISPENSARY, from November 1831 to November 1836.

PERIOD.	Number of Cases attended.	Surgeons' Salaries.	Medicines.	Dispenser's Salary, with Boy.	TOTAL.	Average Cost per Case, for Medicine, Surgeon's and Dispenser's Salaries.	Housekeeper's Salary.	Printing, Stationery, Advertisements.	Rent, Rates, Taxes, &c.	Coals, Candles, Gas, &c.	Repairs, Alterations, &c.	Furniture, &c.	Sundries.	Aggregate Total.	Average Cost per Case, computed on Aggregate Total.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Nov. 1830 to Nov. 1831 -	792	41 6 6	108 3 7	55 – –	204 10 1	5 2	7 17 6	66 14 4	12 2 –	21 16 8	7 11 9	151 13 –	10 5 2	482 10 6	12 2
Nov. 1831 to Nov. 1832 -	1,434	78 13 $-\frac{1}{2}$	51 15 7	70 – –	200 8 $7\frac{1}{2}$	2 $9\frac{1}{2}$	10 10 –	28 15 1	24 8 3	21 1 1	4 – –	- - -	9 7 8	298 10 $8\frac{1}{2}$	4 2
Nov. 1832 to Nov. 1833 -	1,279	77 7 –	41 14 $11\frac{1}{2}$	70 – –	189 1 $11\frac{1}{2}$	2 $11\frac{1}{2}$	10 10 –	14 19 2	25 15 $7\frac{1}{2}$	12 18 2	1 12 5	- - -	4 9 9	259 7 1	4 $-\frac{1}{2}$
Nov. 1833 to Nov. 1834 -	1,071	75 19 5	42 18 4	70 – –	188 17 9	3 $6\frac{1}{2}$	10 10 –	11 14 7	22 18 $1\frac{1}{2}$	15 9 $-\frac{1}{2}$	– 14 –	- - -	7 10 9	257 14 3	4 $9\frac{3}{4}$
Nov. 1834 to Nov. 1835 -	1,229	91 7 $7\frac{1}{2}$	42 1 3	70 – –	203 8 $10\frac{1}{2}$	3 $3\frac{1}{2}$	10 10 –	11 17 10	23 17 $4\frac{1}{2}$	16 3 $1\frac{1}{2}$	2 18 6	- - -	5 10 11	274 6 $7\frac{1}{2}$	4 $5\frac{1}{2}$
Nov. 1835 to Nov. 1836 -	1,490	110 9 $1\frac{1}{2}$	62 8 $3\frac{1}{2}$	70 – –	242 17 5	3 3	10 10 –	12 – 2	23 15 $7\frac{1}{2}$	19 5 10	2 14 7	- - -	5 19 3	317 2 $10\frac{1}{2}$	4 $2\frac{1}{4}$
	7,295				1,229 4 $10\frac{1}{2}$	3 $4\frac{1}{4}$								1,889 12 $-\frac{1}{2}$	
												Deduct Furniture - - -		151 13 –	4 9
														1,737 19 $-\frac{1}{2}$	

Appendix, No. 10.

Appendix, No. 10

FOR QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1837.

NAME of CLASS.	Average Number of each Class in Workhouse, per Week.	Total Number of Deaths in each Class.	AGES OF INMATES WHO DIED. Number under 2.	Between 2 and 9.	Between 9 and 16.	Between 16 and 20.	Between 20 and 30.	Between 30 and 40.	Between 40 and 50.	Between 50 and 60.	Between 60 and 70.	Between 70 and 80.	Between 80 and 90.	Between 90 and 100.	
MEN.															
Able-bodied - -	60	4	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	NORFOLK: Including the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Erpingham, St. Faith's, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, King's Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Swaffham, Thetford and Wayland.
Temporarily disabled -	20														
Old and infirm - -	177	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	3	–	
YOUTHS.															
From 9 to 16 years of age	125	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
BOYS.															
From 2 to 9 - -	159	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
WOMEN.															
Able-bodied - -	170	5	–	–	–	1	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	
Temporarily disabled -	23														
Old and infirm - -	95	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	4	1	
GIRLS.															
From 9 to 16 - -	137	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
„ 2 to 9 - -	151	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
INFANTS - -	57	11	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL of Norfolk -	1,174	42	11	2	3	1	3	2	1	2	4	5	7	1	
MEN.															
Able-bodied - -	84	8	–	–	–	–	2	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	SUFFOLK: Including the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Stow, Thingoe, Wangford and Woodbridge.
Temporarily disabled -	33														
Old and infirm - -	246	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	6	1	
YOUTHS.															
From 9 to 16 years of age	195	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
BOYS.															
From 2 to 9 - -	171	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
WOMEN.															
Able-bodied - -	196	5	–	–	–	2	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Temporarily disabled -	32														
Old and infirm - -	209	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	5	6	–	
GIRLS.															
From 9 to 16 - -	148	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
„ 2 to 9 - -	140	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
INFANTS - -	96	15	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL of Suffolk -	1,550	60	15	1	3	2	4	1	6	–	6	9	12	1	
TOTALS of Norfolk and Suffolk -	- -	102	26	3	6	3	7	3	7	2	10	14	19	2	
			29								45				

FOR QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1837.

MEN.															
Able-bodied - -	21	4	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	NORFOLK: Including the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Erpingham, St. Faith's, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Henstead, King's Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Swaffham, Thetford and Wayland, and the incorporated hundreds of Fleggs, Forehoe, and Tunstead and Happing.
Temporarily disabled -	31														
Old and infirm - -	267	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	3	4	
YOUTHS.															
From 9 to 16 - -	144	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
BOYS.															
From 2 to 9 - -	182	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
WOMEN.															
Able-bodied - -	150	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	
Temporarily disabled -	63														
Old and infirm - -	176	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	6	–	
GIRLS.															
From 9 to 16 - -	144	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
„ 2 to 9 - -	166	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
INFANTS - -	78	7	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
TOTAL of Norfolk, carried forward -	1,422	42	7	2	2	–	1	2	–	5	3	7	9	4	

(continued.)

Appendix, No. 10.

QUARTER ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER 1837—*continued.*

NAME of CLASS.	Average Number of each Class in Workhouse, per Week.	Total Number of Deaths in each Class.	AGES OF INMATES WHO DIED. Number under 2.	Between 2 and 9.	Between 9 and 16.	Between 16 and 20.	Between 20 and 30.	Between 30 and 40.	Between 40 and 50.	Between 50 and 60.	Between 60 and 70.	Between 70 and 80.	Between 80 and 90.	Between 90 and 100.
TOTAL of Norfolk, brought forward -	1,422	42	7	2	2	–	1	2	–	5	3	7	9	4
MEN.														
Able-bodied - -	36	5	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Temporarily disabled -	40													
Old and infirm - -	309	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	3	8	–
YOUTHS.														
From 9 to 16 - -	198	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
BOYS.														
From 2 to 9 - -	156	3	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
WOMEN.														
Able-bodied - -	160	5	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	1	–	–	–	–
Temporarily disabled -	48													
Old and infirm - -	254	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	2	–
GIRLS.														
From 9 to 16 - -	140	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
„ 2 to 9 - -	107	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
INFANTS - -	77	11	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL of Suffolk -	1,525	53	11	3	4	3	3	1	1	2	5	10	10	–
TOTALS of Norfolk and Suffolk - -	- -	95	18	5	6	3	4	3	1	7	8	17	19	4
			23									48		

SUFFOLK: Including the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Stow, Sudbury, Thingoe, Wangford and Woodbridge, and the incorporated hundred of Samford.

QUARTER ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1837.

MEN.														
Able-bodied - -	60	3	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
Temporarily disabled -	46													
Old and infirm - -	304	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	5	7	1
YOUTHS.														
From 9 to 16 - -	178	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
BOYS.														
From 2 to 9 - -	232	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
WOMEN.														
Able-bodied - -	198	3	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Temporarily disabled -	82													
Old and infirm - -	187	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	3	1
GIRLS.														
From 9 to 16 - -	186	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
„ 2 to 9 - -	213	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
INFANTS - -	109	7	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL of Norfolk -	1,795	43	7	3	1	1	2	2	–	1	5	9	10	2
MEN.														
Able-bodied - -	67	6	–	–	–	1	2	–	2	1	–	–	–	–
Temporarily disabled -	57													
Old and infirm - -	373	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	10	8	–
YOUTHS.														
From 9 to 16 - -	249	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
BOYS.														
From 2 to 9 - -	217	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
WOMEN.														
Able-bodied - -	238	6	–	–	–	1	1	–	3	1	–	–	–	–
Temporarily disabled -	57													
Old and infirm - -	302	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	4	–
GIRLS.														
From 9 to 16 - -	177	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
„ 2 to 9 - -	167	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
INFANTS - -	106	9	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
TOTAL of Suffolk -	2,010	54	9	4	2	2	3	–	5	2	5	10	12	–
TOTALS of Norfolk and Suffolk - -	- -	97	16	7	3	3	5	2	5	3	10	19	22	2
			23									53		

NORFOLK: Including the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Erpingham, St. Faith's, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Henstead, King's Lynn, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, Swaffham, Thetford and Wayland, and the incorporated hundreds of Fleggs, Forehoe, and Tunstead and Happing.

SUFFOLK: Including all the Unions, and the incorporated hundred of Samford.

Henry

Henry Wyldbore Rumsey, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. W. Rumsey, Esq.

19 June 1838.

14742. Mr. *Wakley.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Chesham in Buckinghamshire.

14743. Are you in practice there?—I am.

14744. How long have you been in practice?—Six years.

14745. Have you evidence to give to the Committee upon the subject of the Poor Law, relative to the medical department?—I have collected evidence from various unions upon the subject; I am able to speak to the general character of the arrangements in those unions from which I have received information.

14746. In what capacity did you receive that information?—The Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, at its third anniversary at Oxford, in the year 1835, thought fit to appoint a committee of its members "to consider the best means of affording medical relief to the sick poor, and more especially with reference to the operation of the new Poor Law."

14747. Were you in any way connected with that committee?—I was requested to join that committee, and to act as its secretary, and for a year and a half I was engaged in making the necessary inquiries.

14748. Did you find any unwillingness on the part of medical gentlemen to communicate to you the facts which had fallen within their knowledge?—I certainly did find unwillingness in many instances; there was a great caution and fear of giving offence to the authorities by a number of medical men, and even among those who were not connected officially with the administration of the Poor Law; I mean those who did not hold official appointments.

14749. To what cause did you attribute the reserve that was displayed by medical men to communicate what they had discovered?—The cause appears to me to be a natural one; the influence of the authorities constituted under the Poor Law Amendment Act is great; the boards of guardians being composed of the principal and most respectable inhabitants in the country, necessarily exercise a very powerful influence upon the minds of the medical men, who are dependent for their reputation, and of course for their existence, on the good-will of their influential neighbours; that has produced a great deal of reserve in medical men on the subject.

14750. What particular points does the evidence which you collected tend to prove?—It tends to prove that, in many of the unions, medical advice is not so accessible as it was formerly to the paupers, or as it might be, owing to the unreasonable extent of medical districts, and to the reduction in the number of medical attendants; that the medical officers have been appointed by public advertisement and tender, and frequently not on account of their personal qualifications, or in consideration of long services previously rendered to the poor; that the resident practitioners have consented to act for insufficient remuneration, merely to preserve their private practices from invasion; that in several instances strangers have been introduced into the neighbourhood, to the great injury of the established practitioners, although they were ready, on reasonable terms, to continue their parochial duties; and also that medical men are controlled in the execution of their duty by parties who are necessarily incompetent to decide on its due performance.

14751. Are those evils of general or only partial operation?—I should say that the whole system is objectionable, because it is not calculated to insure its professed object, which is the relief and cure of the sick paupers; but I am fully aware that many of the boards of guardians have avoided the worst features of this system, and have acted in a very conciliatory and reasonable manner towards the medical men.

14752. In what year did you collect the chief portion of your facts?—In the latter end of the year 1835, and during the course of the year 1836, to the beginning of 1837.

14753. Have the arrangements been improved in any way since those periods?—In some of the unions they are improved; the force of public opinion has acted, no doubt, in producing an amelioration of the arrangements.

H. W. Rumsey, Esq.

19 June 1838.

14754. Do you consider that the mere operation of time, and the additional experience which the guardians must acquire, will have the effect of remedying the evils that you complain of?—I fear not; it is probable that the strong remonstrances which have been made may have acted, for a time, in modifying the evils, but they are liable, under altered circumstances, to occur again; I can produce instances of a deterioration, instead of an improvement, in the medical arrangements since 1836.

14755. *Chairman.*] In what respects?—In the increase of the size of the districts.

14756. Mr. *Wakley.*] Can you state any instances where medical relief has been inaccessible to the poor, in consequence of the size of the districts?—With regard to the Aylesbury Union, I may state, that the distance of the poor from the medical officer in 1836, was eight, 11 or 12 miles, while medical aid could be procured, and always had been previously procured, within two, three or four miles. The particulars of this union can be more accurately given by another witness.

14757. *Chairman.*] What arrangement subsists now in that union?—The medical officers have been permitted, within the last year, I believe, to engage deputies; but of that union I would beg to say, that another witness, who I believe is summoned before this Committee, is prepared to state, more fully than I am, the circumstances.

14758. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you any more instances?—In the Banbury Union one surgeon, in 1836, held two districts containing 33 parishes, some of which were eight miles from his residence and 15 miles apart.

14759. *Chairman.*] When you say that one surgeon held the whole of that district, do you mean that one surgeon undertook to provide for the care of the whole of the district, or that he undertook to take personal charge of the whole of the poor himself?—He undertook to perform the whole duty himself.

14760. Had he assistants?—He might have had assistants; he had no deputies, no medical officers resident in the union assisting him.

14761. Do you mean that one person alone took the charge of the district?—I do mean that.

14762. What was the population?—I have not the population of that district. In the Brackley Union the poor of King's Sutton, the largest parish in the union, which had always had a resident medical officer, were obliged to send nearly seven miles for medical relief; in the Wallingford Union, the parish of Dorchester, a resident surgeon who had attended the poor for 16 years, was supplanted by a lower tender from a medical man who lived two miles distant, while the parish in which that medical man lived was put in charge of another practitioner, living at a still greater distance; in the Eton Union, one of the districts containing six parishes, which were formerly attended by four medical men, each living near to his charge, and each having a competent assistant, was put into the hands of one medical officer, without an assistant.

14763. How many were displaced?—Four; so that some of the parishes are at a great distance from him; one is seven miles. In the Tendring Union the poor of Manningtree, a sea-port town, which contained three resident medical men, were put into the hands of a medical officer residing at Harwich, no less than 12 miles distant. In the Thame Union, Oxfordshire, one medical officer was appointed to the south district, which is 17 miles long, the roads very bad, as I can personally testify, and the communication difficult, whilst the poor of most of those extreme parishes were within a short distance of medical advice. In the Woodbridge Union, Suffolk, one-half of Woodbridge, the principal town, was placed under a surgeon residing 12 miles distant, although in that very town there were six surgeons and one physician resident; but I have now only mentioned the most striking instances; it has much more frequently happened that the division of unions into medical districts, even where the resident medical men have been engaged, has had the effect of removing the poor of some parishes to a greater distance from advice, and causing proportionate distress to the sick, and inconvenience to the medical attendant. Other unions of great extent have been entrusted to one medical officer. I have a table which, with the permission of the Committee, I will just read, and put in, if it is required.

required. I should at once say, candidly, that these are taken as being the worst instances; they are not the average.

H. W. Rumsey, Esq.

19 June 1838.

[*The Witness read the same, as follows:*]

TABLE exemplifying the SIZE of UNIONS or DISTRICTS entrusted to individual MEDICAL OFFICERS.

UNION.	EXTENT.	GREATEST DISTANCE OF PATIENTS.	PARISHES.	POPULATION.
Easthampstead - -	14 miles by 7	8 miles -	5	7,000
Newbury - - - -	14 „ 10	- - -	18	19,000
Faversham - - -	- - - -	- - -	25	14,845
Ditto (at present one district) - - -	9 „ 7	7 „ -	17	8,084
Shipston-on-Stour, three districts - - -	15 „ 14	12 „ -	30	15,000
Dover - - - -	- - - -	8 „ -	23	20,507
Penshurst - - -	16 „ 8	12 „ -	6	6,367
Leighton Buzzard - -	11 „ 10	8 „ -	15	11,800
Hambledon - - -	20 „ 10	- - -	16	12,000
North Aylesford, one district - - - - -	- - -	10 „ -	9	—

14764. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you any knowledge of the Newbury Union, in Berkshire?—I have no personal knowledge of it.

14765. Are you aware whether the arrangements which you have mentioned still, for the most part, exist in those unions?—No, I am not aware whether they exist in some of those unions.

14766. *Chairman.*] To what time does the table you have now read apply?—February 1837, was the last date of the facts from which I compiled that table.

14767. Have you the means of knowing what is the existing state of the unions you have mentioned?—I am able to state it to the Committee, as respects some of the unions. In some a modification has taken place; for instance, in Aylesbury, the medical officers have engaged deputies, residing nearer the remote parishes; in the Banbury Union, the districts have been diminished, and the number of medical officers consequently increased; the same, I believe, in the Brackley Union, and in the North Aylesford. As I have before stated, the arrangements are by no means always improved by time and experience; for instance, in the Bradfield Union the guardians distributed the union into four medical districts, and although those arrangements deprived the sick in some instances of the medical attendants to which they had been accustomed, yet in the next year the board divided the union into three medical districts, instead of four, which division is now in force. In fact, while the present system continues, no union, however judicious its arrangements for medical relief may have been, is safe, in my opinion, from future alteration for the worse; what has already happened in some unions may occur hereafter in others.

14768. You have stated that alterations took place in the two unions of Brackley and Banbury; do you happen to know what is the present state of medical arrangements in Banbury?—In Banbury I believe I can speak to the medical arrangements; there are eight medical districts instead of four.

14769. How many medical officers?—Eight instead of three.

14770. That probably is a satisfactory arrangement?—Yes; but I would mention that in four of those districts still, the greatest distance of the patients is from five to eight miles; that is, there are districts in which the patients are eight miles from the medical officer.

14771. Do you mean, that an individual cottage is eight miles from the residence of the medical officer, or that there are villages at that distance?—I have not that personal knowledge which will enable me to speak to that; I have deduced the fact from the returns.

H. W. Rumsey, Esq.

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14772. Brackley?—I have no personal knowledge of that; I have only been informed that it has been improved.

14773. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you consider that large districts preclude the possibility of providing efficient medical attendance for the poor?—Yes, indeed I do, especially in acute cases of illness.

14774. Are you aware that the Poor Law Commissioners have collected evidence from some extensive medical districts, showing the excellent working of the system?—Yes, I am aware of that; and I am also aware, that in some of those unions parties may be found equally respectable, who would give evidence to the contrary; I happen to know from one union that this is the case.

14775. Do you think that small districts are likely to produce inefficient attendance, owing to the medical practitioners not having a sufficient motive to maintain their contracts?—I am aware that this has been urged, but I cannot coincide in the opinion, because I think the inducement which a medical man has to perform his duty in a small district under the notice of his most influential patients, is more likely to produce a proper performance of duty, than the inducement of holding a large contract, which after all is but a poor one.

14776. You consider then that the inducement in a small district is as strong as in a large one?—Quite as strong; I should say stronger; I speak from my own feelings upon the point; I should feel a stronger motive to pay attention to the pauper patients in a district where I knew that I had several influential private patients, than I should to undertake a large district where I had no such private practice.

14777. Have you read the evidence of Mr. Gulson, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, upon that subject?—I have.

14778. Do you agree with him in his views?—No, I cannot.

14779. Have you read the evidence of Dr. Kay, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner?—I have.

14780. Do you agree with him in the view he has taken?—I was very glad to see that Dr. Kay's views upon that subject coincided with those which I had previously formed.

14781. You recollect that Mr. Gulson recommended large districts, in order to give the practitioner a motive to retain his contract?—I do; it was with reference to that that I made my answer.

14782. Has the number of medical officers been considerably reduced in some of the unions?—It has.

14783. Can you name them?—I have a table, which I beg to submit, containing an account of the reduction in the number of medical officers in 12 unions: In the Aylesbury, from 16 to 3; in the Banbury, from 14 to 3; in the Cookham Union, from 8 to 2; in one district of the Eton Union, from 4 to 1; in the Faversham, from several, I cannot ascertain the number, to 1; in the Newbury, from 12 to 1; in the Ongar, from 10 to 4; in the Shipston-on-Stour, from 10 to 2; in the Stow, from 8 to 3; in the Tonbridge, from 5 to 1; in one of the districts of the Windsor Union, from 4 to 1; in one district of the Witney Union, from 8 to 2; in the Woodbridge Union, from 10 to 4; making a total of 109 reduced to 27; that is a deficiency of 82 medical officers out of 109.

14784. This return, then, shows the number of medical officers employed, as compared with the number of medical practitioners who were employed before the unions were formed?—Precisely.

14785. What effects upon the interests of the poor do you suppose these extensive reductions are calculated to produce?—I should think they must deprive them of the necessary attendance in sickness; I cannot conceive how it can act otherwise.

14786. Do you think that allowing medical officers to engage deputies is likely to obviate, entirely, the evils of forming large medical districts?—No, I do not; in the first place, I think that no practitioner ought to be allowed to engage a deputy, because it is impossible that a medical contractor can ensure a proper performance of duty by a person over whom he has no control; secondly, such a plan will, in many instances, end in jobbing, and in the medical men consulting

sulting their own interests instead of those of the sick; thirdly, if one practitioner cannot perform the duties of the district, it appears to me that such a number should be appointed as may suffice for the purpose; the permission to appoint deputies is, in my humble opinion, a lame attempt to mitigate an acknowledged evil, and is, in itself, liable to great abuse.

14787. Are you aware that, in the second annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, there occurs the following statement: "The districts have been deliberately formed by the respective boards, who, from their local knowledge, must be considered the most competent judges upon the subject; we have reason to believe that, in almost every instance, the best arrangement was adopted"?—I am aware that that is the statement; I am at a loss to account for the statement, when I observe the actual state of things in the unions I have detailed; I consider that the guardians have really shown, in those unions, that they have not duly considered the matter, and perhaps were not altogether competent to decide upon it without the advice of medical men; I beg permission to refer the attention of the Committee to some of the reports from the boards of guardians contained in the Appendix to the second annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners; they are in a tabular view of the unions with regard to the medical arrangements, in page 499; I have given the Committee some account of the arrangements in the North Aylesford, in the Wallingford, in the Eton, the Faversham, in the Hambledon, the Tendring, in the Penshurst and the Woodbridge Unions. Now, on referring to the account of those unions in this table, I observe that in the Union of North Aylesford the medical arrangements are described as being as adequate and as efficient as the old arrangements were; in the Wallingford, I find them described as quite adequate and equally efficient; in the Eton, they are styled adequate and decidedly better; in the Faversham, quite as adequate and more efficient; in the Hambledon, as adequate and as efficient; in the Tendring, adequate; in the Penshurst, quite adequate and quite efficient; and in the Woodbridge, more adequate.

14788. Are the medical districts identical with those of the relieving officers?—They are, in many unions.

14789. No rule is observed on that head?—No.

14790. Are you aware that in the report from which I have just quoted, there occurs this passage, "No sooner was any part of the country formed into an union, than the propriety of altering the arrangements established for the relief in the separate parishes under the old law became apparent?"—I believe that the fact is, that the old distribution of parishes among the medical men was not altered in every union, as this passage would imply, and where the former distribution was continued, I am told that no inconvenience has arisen; indeed, I may speak to two instances of that, from my own personal knowledge, there was in those instances no necessity felt "for a new and more combined distribution;" and, therefore, I cannot but conclude that no such necessity existed in the great majority of instances.

14791. *Chairman.*] In the instances with which you are personally acquainted there was no necessity for a new arrangement?—There was not.

14792. Mr. *Wakley.*] You could not discover the propriety of making the alteration?—No, I could not.

14793. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Of how many cases do you speak?—The two within my own personal knowledge, besides others I have heard of, are, Wycombe and Newport Pagnell.

14794. *Chairman.*] What has happened in those cases?—The medical men have been allowed to take single parishes, probably without any reference to medical districts, as might be most suitable for their private practice.

14795. Mr. *Estcourt.*] In that case have all the parishes been supplied with medical attendance?—I am told that they have.

14796. There is no parish left out under that arrangement?—Certainly not in the Wycombe Union; I am not certain with regard to the Newport Pagnell, but I believe it is the fact.

14797. Is Wycombe a large union?—I believe it contains between 30 and 40 parishes.

14798. Mr. *Wakley.*] Can you describe the advantages and disadvantages of

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the former system of appointing medical practitioners?—The advantages were that there were no medical districts; every parish was at full liberty to engage the surgeon who was situated most conveniently for it; and as the distance of the contracting parties generally increased the expenses, the parish had a powerful inducement to appoint the nearest resident; but there were great disadvantages under the former system, as every one who had any thing to do with it must be able to testify.

14799. *Chairman.*] Will you be so good as to describe those disadvantages, as far as they strike you?—I do not think the duties were properly performed.

14800. In what respects?—There was a lax and insufficient performance of duty; I think the poor were frequently neglected; I think it was made a matter of convenience too much, and I can hardly wonder at it, for the remuneration was, I may say, shamefully inadequate.

14801. Mr. *Wakley.*] Were the medical officers of the parishes conveniently located under the old system?—They were more conveniently located than under the new, in the instances I have given.

14802. That was not always the case?—It was not; there were exceptions; but the system of parochial contracts was generally favourable to such arrangements.

14803. Mr. *Liddell.*] Favourable as a matter of convenience?—Yes.

14804. Mr. *Scrope.*] Would you not trace, in any degree, the abuses which you have mentioned, to the system of parochial contracts?—Indeed I do.

14805. You think that the circumstance of every parish having the power of appointing its own medical officer had a tendency to produce the evils you speak of, of indifference on their part to the state of the poor?—I would not say that it was that circumstance; I should conceive that that point was the best part of the whole system.

14806. Was there not much partiality exhibited, on the part of the parish, in the appointment of surgeons?—There may have been; but I should think not more than is now exhibited by boards of guardians.

14807. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Was it not practically one principal disadvantage of the old system that there was not an efficient control over the medical officer to stimulate and compel him to do his duty, if he were disposed to do otherwise?—It was indeed.

14808. Do not you find that under the new system there is some improvement in that respect?—There is some improvement, but a very inefficient improvement; I cannot consider that the parties who exercise that supervision can be considered competent.

14809. But supposing them to be unable to form an opinion; do you not consider that the medical officer writing a note upon each case, week by week, is practically a considerable control upon him?—I do think so.

14810. Mr. *Wakley.*] Then you are ready to admit that under the old system there existed very great abuses?—Indeed I am very ready to admit it to the fullest extent.

14811. Will you name the chief of them?—I believe I have named them already; lax attendance, inadequate remuneration, the appointment of medical officers by tender, which, though not so prevalent as under the new system, was occasionally adopted.

14812. *Chairman.*] Was it not a practice, under the old system, for the parishes, if they could get a doctor to do the work cheaper, to appoint him?—Yes.

14813. Mr. *Scrope.*] You would not return to the old system?—I would not.

14814. You would not leave the appointment to the select vestry?—Not to the select vestry.

14815. In what body would you lodge it?—I should certainly prefer seeing the power lodged in the rate-payers, and the election conducted by voting-papers, because I think that would take the sense of the parish in the best way.

14816. Do not you think that the rate-payers would be actuated by the same motives of false economy that you have attributed to the old vestry?—I would remedy that by another provision preventing the remuneration from being altered in any such way from a fair and equitable standard.

14817. You would have the remuneration fixed by some other mode?—I would.

14818. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you approve of parties giving a plurality of votes?—I must say, that, individually, I do approve of it.

14819. You consider that the system of plural voting works well?—Yes, I do; I am not prepared to enter upon that question, not expecting that I should be questioned upon it; but that is my opinion.

14820. You have seen, yourself, the operation of the system of voting in the way you have described?—I have, and I think it tended to produce the election of the most respectable guardians.

14821. Do you mean the most wealthy?—I would not say the most wealthy only, but men of intelligence.

14822. Then in your union you have no complaint to make of the medical arrangements?—Yes, I have; I do not find that intelligent men being elected prevents abuses in the medical arrangements.

14823. You do not find that the most intelligent are the most benevolent?—I have many friends amongst the guardians, and I should be sorry to be pushed upon that point.

14824. In the second annual report of the Commissioners, it is stated at page 22, "We have never sought to disturb or displace the medical practitioners in their respective districts; whenever this has been done, the guardians have been forced to adopt that course by the inadmissible demands which have been made upon them by the gentlemen who now complain of their practice having been interfered with." Supposing this to relate solely to the introduction of medical persons from a distance, does it agree with what you have observed?—I believe strangers have been introduced into the following unions: Epping, Eton, Hambledon, Ongar, Leighton-Buzzard, Docking, Lincoln, Faversham, Newbury, Penshurst, Shipston-on-Stour, Wheatenhurst, Amersham and Aylesbury, besides those of which I have not received positive accounts.

14825. *Chairman.*] How many strangers does that make?—I do not know the number of strangers, because I am told that more than one have been introduced in some instances; but there are 14 instances.

14826. The instances in which strangers have been introduced bears a small proportion to the whole number of the unions?—Yes, but only because the resident practitioners in a great many other unions thought it most prudent to acquiesce in the arrangements; from the majority of the before-mentioned unions I have been informed as to the proposals of the medical men, and I believe that they could not be called inadmissible; with the permission of the Committee I will state a few of those, in order to show whether they were inadmissible demands; the fact of strangers being introduced being stated by the Poor Law Commissioners to occur only when the demands of the resident practitioners were inadmissible; in the Epping Union it was proposed by the medical men to continue their services at the previous salaries, taking the average of the last three years; that was rejected.

14827. Mr. *Estcourt.*] That is, to receive for their medical district the same as they had received for the parishes?—Yes; in the Eton Union the former salaries were also proposed by the medical men; in the Faversham the same; in the Hambledon less than the former salaries; the average medical expense before, exclusive of extras, was 350*l.* per annum; the board of guardians fixed 250*l.* for the whole union, and offered it to the former functionaries; these objected to so great a reduction; the board then advertised for tenders; one tender was given in for the whole union at 110*l.* by a total stranger; the guardians added 40*l.* as a douceur, and appointed him. In the Newbury Union, the resident practitioners proposed their former salaries; I should say that some of the medical men in the Newbury Union proposed less; in the Shipston-on-Stour Union advertisements were issued for tenders, which varied from 70*l.* to 100*l.* for each district, and were considered moderate; one for the Camden district, at 70*l.*, was accepted, subject to the approval of the Commissioners; the Assistant-commissioner stated that he considered 195*l.* to be sufficient for the medical attendants on the poor of the whole union; at a subsequent meeting of the Board, a stranger appeared with a tender for the whole union for 250*l.*, but the Camden district being disposed of, the three other districts of that union were taken by him at 200*l.*; in the Wheatonhurst Union, two established practitioners sent in a joint tender for 150 guineas, but a stranger was introduced at 100*l.*; I am told that in Wheatonhurst 150 guineas was the rate of the previous remuneration.

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14828. Mr. *Wakley.*] Then, in the instances which you have mentioned, the request which was made by the medical practitioners that the former salary should be continued, was deemed to be an inadmissible demand?—Yes, it was; but it appears to me that it was a very reasonable demand, for, under the old system of parochial appointments, it was acknowledged that the salaries were economical. His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry stated in their report that the medical attendance was on the whole economically supplied, and adequately, considering the price and amount of attendance.

14829. Have you the page in which that occurs?—I have: "On the whole the medical attendance seems to be adequately supplied, and economically, if we consider only the price and amount of attendance."

14830. *Chairman.*] In what page is that?—Page 43; the duties moreover under the new system are not less arduous; the districts are rendered more inconvenient; onerous returns are to be made; and therefore, until a better calculation could be made, the old salaries appeared to be a reasonable demand.

14831. Mr. *Wakley.*] Did the medical practitioners who communicated with you on the subject of the unions, know that you were about to use their testimony in public?—They did.

14832 You apprised them of that?—I apprised them that it would be published, and all the facts which I have now stated before the Committee have been published; I also apprised them that the facts would be liable to be sifted by opposing parties, and if they had any thing to retract, I advised them to do so in the most ample manner. In consequence of that, many of the communications which I first received were withdrawn, and therefore I conceive that the facts I am now bringing forward have stood the test, and may be relied upon.

14833. Since it was acknowledged that the first medical arrangements under the new law were probationary, do you consider that it was desirable to disturb the previous arrangements until better could be devised?—No, I think it was undesirable to do so.

14834. Are you decidedly of opinion that many of the new arrangements have been inferior to those under the old system?—Most undoubtedly; at the same time, as I have said before, it is most important that a better should be devised; I would have advised a continuance of the distribution of the duties to the same men, and at the same salaries, except in some remarkable instances, till a better system could be devised.

14835. Are you decidedly of opinion that in several instances the reasonable proposals of the medical practitioners of the district have been rejected, for the purpose of introducing strangers?—I am sure of it.

14836. Do you consider that such conduct has been productive of injury to the interests of the poor, and has given offence to a great number of medical men?—It has.

14837. Are you aware that in some instances the medical practitioners endeavoured to raise the remuneration above their former salaries?—I have heard of such cases, and I think it is right to mention with regard to one of those cases of which I have received some little information, and which has been already before this Committee, the Lincoln Union: the medical men in that union sent in tenders, the lowest of which was considerably greater than the previous amount of salary; but it should be considered that the guardians had advertised for tenders previously contrary to the advice of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner; that of course produced, as was natural, a very irritated and a very unpleasant feeling on the part of the whole medical body; and therefore they did what was perhaps not in itself an advisable thing, but still excusable, under the circumstances; they met together, and endeavoured to raise their remuneration. But, I beg to observe, that the first step in that matter was taken by the guardians, who were not content to give the previous salaries, and who advertised for tenders, in order to procure a reduction.

14838. Are you aware that it was given in evidence here that the resident practitioners offered to take that union for very nearly the same sum as was offered to a stranger?—I am aware of that; and that they believed that that was no more than the previous salaries. There was a difference of opinion between the medical men and the Assistant-commissioner; they considered that 320 *l.* was the amount of the previous salaries; the Assistant-commissioner thought 300 *l.* was the amount. I should think they must have had as good means of forming their opinion upon that point as the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

14839. Have

14839. Have you been informed, that, in some unions, after the guardians had introduced a stranger, they found it to be advisable to adopt the proposals which they had previously rejected?—I have been informed that that has been the case in some unions.

14840. Can you name any of them?—One is the union in which I reside, the Amersham Union; another that I have been informed of is the Aylesbury Union.

14841. Will you describe what occurred in those unions?—In the Amersham Union, the Chesham surgeons declined to undertake the care of the paupers of the district surrounding that town, because they were not allowed an additional remuneration for parishes at a distance; and a stranger was introduced who took the parishes at the terms proposed by the guardians; but in a year they raised his salary for the distant parishes, but not for the home parish, showing that our proposal had not been unreasonable, by their adopting it in spirit although not in letter.

14842. Mr. *Estcourt.*] In that particular case, was there much difference between the sum proposed by the Chesham surgeons, and the sum to which it was afterwards raised and was paid to the stranger?—There was a difference in the mode, but not in the relative amount.

14843. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you attribute that merely to a desire for economy or to any spirit of jobbing?—To a desire for economy.

14844. Mr. *Wakley.*] When the arrangements which were proposed by the established medical practitioners have been, as a matter of necessity, resorted to after the introduction of strangers, have those practitioners been restored to their former positions?—They have not, in some cases; I imagine that a kindly feeling and sense of mutual obligation has risen up between the guardians and the stranger by whose means they have been enabled to obtain their economical object, and those feelings influence the guardians to retain the stranger in his public appointment, though the plea on which he was introduced is relinquished; I have heard a guardian say, "we did not like to abandon a gentleman who helped us out of our difficulties."

14845. *Chairman.*] They might probably have been satisfied with his practice?—I am not aware that that was the case in this instance.

14846. If the guardians, in any particular instance, have been anxious to retain the services of a medical man, is it not reasonable to suppose that they have found that his services are satisfactory?—Perhaps it may be so; but it is rather remarkable that they should not act upon this principle until after they turned away the resident medical men who had attended the parishes for some time previously.

14847. If in a particular case, the medical men of the district were to combine, and to agree together not to accept any remuneration but that which the guardians thought unreasonable and extravagant, would it not be just that the guardians should, in that case, have an opportunity of availing themselves of the services of another person?—It ought clearly to be shown that the proposal of the medical men was an unjust one.

14848. Who do you think are the judges of that?—I cannot think that those who pay are much better judges than those who are to receive.

14849. Who were the judges under the former system?—It was a sort of voluntary arrangement, under the old system, and was liable to some of the same abuses.

14850. Who were the judges?—Both the medical men and the parish officers.

14851. It was a contract between the medical man and the parish officers?—Yes.

14852. Is it not now?—It is; but there is this great difference, that all the parish authorities are combined legally, and the medical officers are not.

14853. In what way are the parish authorities combined legally?—By the boards of guardians.

14854. Mr. *Wakley.*] Are not they formed by law into a corporation?—Yes, and the medical men, standing in their individual situation, are no match for them.

14855. *Chairman.*] But may not this happen, that the medical men of a particular district shall agree together not to tender their services, except upon certain terms?—Yes, and they have, I have no doubt, in many instances, done that from a desire to protect their own interests.

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14856. Both parties are anxious to protect their own interests, and both parties are anxious to see that the duty is properly performed?—No doubt.

14857. But may it not happen that all the medical men of a certain district may agree not to execute the duty that devolves upon them by this Act of Parliament, except upon terms which may appear to the other contracting parties to be unreasonable?—Yes, it may.

14858. Suppose that to have happened, would you not think it right that the other contracting party should have the power to look elsewhere for some individual to perform those services?—If the parochial practice stood by itself I should say certainly; but, connected as it is with private practice, I should think not.

14859. Do you think that the medical practitioners should be entrusted solely with the absolute power of determining what should be the amount of remuneration?—Certainly not; I would no more entrust them with it than I would the other party.

14860. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you find the poor extremely sensitive, and not easily satisfied upon the subject of medical attendance?—Not having accepted office under the new system, I am not aware, and I have not made minute inquiries; but I think they are generally dissatisfied.

14861. Do you think that the introduction of strangers is calculated to augment or diminish that feeling?—Very much to augment it.

14862. The expression of dissatisfaction on the part of the medical men in the neighbourhood would, of course, reach the ears of the poor, and would augment probably their feelings upon the subject?—I should think their own feelings would be quite sufficient to operate in that way.

14863. Mr. *Liddell.*] You think so from the feelings of good fellowship which prevail between the poor of the district and the medical men of the district?—Yes, I do think so.

14864. Mr. *Wakley.*] Suppose it should have been stated that when a board of guardians having tried a medical man, and found he was doing his duty satisfactorily, determined that he ought to have a decided preference as to the continuance of his contract; do you think that just and reasonable in principle?—Yes, I do; and I only wish that it had been acted upon throughout, with reference to the former arrangements, as well as those since the unions have been formed.

14865. Since the new distribution of parishes (as the Poor Law Commissioners have stated) caused a "disturbance of the medical practitioners, extending the practice of some, while it curtailed that of others," did it not act as injuriously as if strangers had been introduced?—In many instances more so, because the established practitioners who were appointed to districts, being previously known in their locality, could more readily obtain that private practice which always, more or less, goes with the public appointment.

14866. Does any considerable amount of private practice follow the parochial appointment?—Yes, it does.

14867. Has that come under your own observation?—It has.

14868. Mr. *Estcourt.*] In any case that you may have known of strangers being introduced, do you think that they have gained private practice?—In those cases that I have known myself, they clearly have, and to the injury of the resident practitioners.

14869. Mr. *Wakley.*] Then, in the instances you have mentioned, the established practitioners have not only been injured by the loss of the parochial appointment, but by the serious inroads that have been made upon their private practice?—Most undoubtedly they have.

14870. Do you consider that the hope of obtaining private practice has induced strangers to put in low tenders for the parochial appointments?—Certainly, that has been the main motive.

14871. Then do you not also consider that the readiness with which the resident surgeons, in some unions, have fallen in with the propositions of the guardians, has arisen solely from a desire to maintain their private interests in those localities?—Doubtless.

14872. With regard to the remuneration of medical men, do you conceive that to require tenders is the proper means of ascertaining what is the fair remuneration for the services they have to execute?—No, I think not; tenders have always

always been given in with a view to private practice, and, therefore, have not operated fairly and equitably, in reference to the parochial duties.

14873. The Commissioners have observed, that "it is only by resorting to open tenders that the guardians can ascertain, with any thing like correctness, the sum which it may be right to pay for the medical relief of the district"; do you consider that the resort to tenders was an inevitable one?—I think the guardians have other means of ascertaining the remuneration; they have the amount, as I have before stated, of the old expenses, which were avowedly moderate, and which the medical men, in 99 cases out of 100, would have accepted.

14874. Are you averse to the guardians taking advantage of a fair and open competition amongst medical men?—By no means; but it ought to be a competition of talent and skill and humanity, not one of pounds, shillings and pence, in such a momentous business as the lives of the sick poor.

14875. And would you consider, from what you have observed, and from the information you have received, that it has, generally speaking, had reference to the sum which is to be paid, and not to the moral or intellectual qualifications of the candidates?—I know there have been instances where the lowest tenders have been accepted in opposition to those qualifications.

14876. Are you aware of any board of guardians having come to a resolution that the lowest tender should be accepted?—I am not aware that they came to the resolution; but I see that in effect it has been the same thing, for they have taken it.

14877. The Commissioners have observed that "the elements upon which the calculation of the medical remuneration must be founded, are in themselves obscure, and are utterly unknown to the guardians; the medical practitioners themselves cannot fail to be possessed individually of the knowledge necessary for making the calculation; thus they, and not the board of guardians, were constituted the judges of the fitting amount of remuneration for their attendance;" do you think that this describes fairly the effect of requiring tenders?—No, I do not think it does; the medical men were not possessed of the elements of the calculation; they could not tell what proportion of the population the guardians might choose to provide medical relief for, they could only refer to their old remuneration and take into their consideration the increased trouble and responsibility which they would incur under the new system.

14878. On offering, therefore, the medical care of the parishes to public competition, the board has always disposed to some extent of the private practice of the resident practitioners; is that so?—Certainly; and the Commissioners must have known, that in giving in tenders the medical men were not guided by the estimate of the value of their services; so far from that, they only sought to retain or obtain certain other collateral advantages; and it is this peculiarity belonging to the medical appointments of the union, which has enabled the Commissioners and the boards of guardians to exercise such an extraordinary control over the medical men of the country. Medical men felt, in many instances, that their existence and that of their families was at stake; and, sooner than part with their private practice, they would accept the parochial appointment for nothing, and, I believe, in one instance that was done; the return is "nil," against remuneration.

14879. What union is that?—The Abingdon Union.

14880. *Chairman.*] When you see the word "nil," are you to conclude that the medical men are performing their duty for nothing?—I do believe it.

14881. Is it not just as you observe in this return, that for many of the items of the return in page 499 of the Second Report of the Commissioners, there are vacancies, meaning by that, that no return has been made?—I have been informed that it is actually nothing; that information might, I suppose, readily be obtained by the Committee.

14882. Mr. *Wakley.*] You find the Abingdon Union is divided into six districts?—Yes.

14883. And you find, under the head Remuneration, "nil" in every district?—Yes; and not only with regard to the salary, but the charge for midwifery; therefore, it is quite conclusive to my own mind.

14884. Mr. *Liddell.*] You mean, that those six districts have been supplied with medical attendances, and that each of the medical attendants of those

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districts has absolutely received no remuneration?—I can only understand that from the returns.

14885. Are there any dispensaries in that district?—I am not aware.

14886. Mr. *Wakley.*] If the union appointments could, in any manner, be severed from private practice, and the medical officers bound in a penalty not to practise then or subsequently in the neighbourhood, would you then object to competition?—Certainly not, as far as the medical profession is concerned; but I should extremely regret it, for the sake of the poor; I believe that parochial practice is inseparable from private practice, and I can state rather a singular instance of its being inseparable, and of the guardians having failed in an attempt to separate it; this happened in the Leighton Buzzard Union; the guardians there thought that, in appointing a stranger to the care of the union, it was not desirable to allow him to practise privately; they thought that they should protect the practices of the resident medical practitioner, by confining him to the duties of his appointment; this laudable intention, however, was frustrated, for after the medical officer had held the appointment for two years, and had obtained a reputation in the neighbourhood, he threw up the appointment, and immediately commenced private practice.

14887. You cannot discover any circumstances which would induce you to approve of the system of tender in making the medical appointments of the unions?—None, whatever.

14888. When the remuneration is beaten down to the lowest possible rate by competition, do you suppose that guardians will obtain medical officers who are satisfied and willing to perform their duty?—I can hardly suppose that they can.

14889. You do not mean to say that medical officers themselves have been the persons who have been allowed to sit in judgment, always upon the remuneration which they have received?—No.

14890. And that is what you do not contend for under an improved system?—By no means.

14891. Can you cite any instances in which the lowest tender has been received in opposition to character, personal qualification, and residence?—In these unions that has happened; the Aylesbury, Wallingford, the Eastry (in the second year,) the Hambledon, the Ongar, the Penshurst, and the Wheatenhurst.

14892. *Chairman.*] What do you state to have been the fact with regard to those unions?—In the Aylesbury Union, 16 established medical gentlemen, who had formerly been engaged in attending the parishes, were ready, on moderate terms, to continue their services, but their terms were not accepted by the guardians.

14893. The dispute was upon terms?—Upon terms, and the mode of arranging the medical districts.

14894. In all those unions that you have enumerated, has the difference between the medical men and the board of guardians arisen principally upon the amount of remuneration?—The question that I was asked having reference principally to this point, whether the lowest tender had been accepted in opposition to character and personal reputation, and proximity to the charge; I mentioned those cases, because in those instances the medical men who possessed these qualifications had not succeeded in obtaining the appointment.

14895. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is the remuneration for medical services in the unions with which you are personally acquainted, adequate to the efficient discharge of the duties?—In the majority it is not; in some I am aware that the remuneration is upon the whole tolerably good, but in the majority it is insufficient; and I know some unions where it is not sufficient to provide even medicines; I know a medical gentleman, in my own neighbourhood, who told me that he could not prescribe a certain expensive medicine for the poor, because his contract would not allow him to do it, even if the patient required it.

14896. In other unions you think that the remuneration has been sufficient?—Yes, in some unions it is indeed; in some it is very fair, particularly in the Norfolk and Suffolk unions.

14897. You have found, from the information you have received, that there are great varieties in the amounts received in different unions?—There is a very great difference; I will mention one fact as an example: In the Wycombe Union

Union the remuneration was per case; it varied from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 9*d.* per case. In the Bridge Union, in Kent, the remuneration is 10*s.* per case per quarter, so that in some instances it might amount to 2*l.* in the course of the year.

14898. *Chairman.*] Is there not some other difference, which is not apparent in that statement, between the provisions of the contracts in those two cases?—The only difference that could exist, as far as I know, is in the duration of the cases, and upon that point I am not informed: they are both on the per case system.

14899. Is there a maximum fixed in either instance beyond which the remuneration shall not go?—I am not aware whether there is in the Bridge Union, but there is in the Wycombe.

14900. Does that maximum bear any proportion to the sum paid under the former system?—Yes, it is not to exceed that.

14901. So that, under the existing arrangement at Wycombe, the sum may amount to the same as was paid under the former system?—Yes.

14902. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you happen to know whether it does?—No; I happen to know that in some instances it does not. May I be permitted to mention one case with regard to the Wycombe Union, which is rather singular; take the Hedsor parish: In that union a contract existed for 20 years previous to the union at 10*l.* per annum; the remuneration on the formation of that union was fixed at 2*s.* 9*d.* per case; the average annual number of pauper cases of sickness was 17 previous to the formation of the union, and within one or two of that since; I believe the first year it was 16; the first year's stipend may therefore be thus estimated: attendance upon 16 cases of illness, at 2*s.* 9*d.*, 2*l.* 4*s.*

14903. *Chairman.*] That was a particular parish?—Yes.

14904. But there were many parishes in that district, were there not?—There were two parishes only, Hedsor and Woburn, attended by the same surgeon.

14905. What was the remuneration for the other parish?—The other parish I heard was less under the new plan; it is a relative of mine who holds both, and therefore I have the information from authority which I can depend upon.

14906. He stated to you that the remuneration per case did not nearly amount to the former remuneration?—He did, in the first year; and when he came to take into consideration the cost of the correspondence with the clerk of the union and the tolls at the turnpike-gate, which came to 15*s.* a year, it left him 1*l.* 9*s.* for that amount of duty which he had formerly received 10*l.* for.

14907. Mr. *Wakley.*] If the medical officers are not satisfied with their remuneration, do you conceive that by a very rigid superintendence of them they may be made to discharge their duty so effectually that the poor would be equally well off as though the medical men were perfectly satisfied?—No; I am quite convinced that the medical men have the means of deceiving both their patients and their employers on that point.

14908. Then you are decidedly of opinion that if the arrangements with the medical practitioner are of a character to produce dissatisfaction in his mind, the interests of the poor must suffer in consequence?—It is inevitable, except the medical man is a man of extreme humanity, and there are many such in the profession; but you cannot offer a continual temptation to men to do what is wrong, and not find many who will fall under the power of that temptation.

14909. Is it in the power of a medical practitioner to deceive non-professional persons, with regard to the propriety of his attendance on the patients?—Most undoubtedly it is.

14910. Might he not, to a great extent, neglect his duties without an unprofessional man being able to detect it?—Yes.

14911. Thus might not the poor suffer very much, not only in agony of body and of mind, but also in reference to their pecuniary interests?—Yes, they might.

14912. Might not a labouring man, for example, through inefficient attendance, become permanently disabled, and consequently be a charge upon the funds of the union during the remainder of his life?—Yes, I have no doubt that that has happened.

14913. Do not you consider that strict, prudent economy ought to induce the guardians in all instances to provide efficient medical attendance for the poor?—Clearly so.

14914. And that that is, after all, the strictest economy?—Yes.

14915. Mr. *Liddell.*] In such cases of neglect which you have assumed, would not the bringing home the charge of neglect be extremely difficult?—It would indeed;

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indeed; I can hardly conceive that it could be done except the instances were very flagrant.

14916. Even where you might be morally certain that neglect had really taken place?—Certainly.

14917. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is it your opinion that competition in the medical profession is carried to its very extreme?—Yes, it is without any fresh competition with regard to parishes.

14918. Mr. *Wakley.*] You do not object to medical practitioners being placed under efficient control?—Not at all; I should be very glad to see the control much more efficient; I think the medical care of the poor should be very narrowly watched.

14919. Do you object to the weekly returns which are ordered by the board from their medical officers?—Not at all; I think they are very useful.

14920. Are you of opinion that even magistrates are not capable of determining whether medical attendance has been efficient or not?—Not having had a medical education, they cannot be.

14921. Do you not consider that, next to an efficient medical education, the best security for the honourable fulfilment of the duties which the medical officer has to execute must depend upon his moral character?—It must entirely.

14922. Do you consider that highly qualified medical practitioners can feel satisfied in submitting their professional conduct always to the judgment of non-professional persons?—I should think they could not.

14923. You consider that some professional authorities should be brought in aid of the lay authority?—Yes, indeed I do; I think it absolutely necessary.

14924. To whom is the power of giving orders upon the medical men to attend the paupers in the unions with which you are acquainted entrusted?—In those unions which adopted the per case system, that power was vested at first entirely in the relieving-officer, and though a modification did take place afterwards, yet it was never taken out of the hands of the relieving-officer entirely; but in the unions, where a fixed salary was adopted, a number of other officers were entrusted with that power; the parish officers, the churchwardens, the guardians, and the magistrates had the power of granting relief in urgent cases.

14925. You are aware that the law, in cases of emergency, empowers the overseers and magistrates to give orders?—Yes, I am.

14926. *Chairman.*] Do you mean that the provision where the per case system was adopted, was intended to do away with the law in that respect?—I know one case where the parish officer had to pay for the order he had given, because he had not consulted the relieving-officer first.

14927. But, generally speaking, in those unions where the per case system was adopted, had the magistrates or had they not, and had the overseers or had they not, a power of giving orders occasionally?—I have no doubt that they had the power, because the Act gives it them.

14928. Do you know whether they exercised it?—I know that in the unions, where the per-case system is adopted, they exercise it much more sparingly than in the others.

14929. Mr. *Wakley.*] What was the remuneration in those unions?—I cannot state.

14930. Do you consider it desirable to give many persons the power to grant medical relief?—I consider it desirable that orders should be granted by the board of guardians without any intermediate authority; the relief might always be afforded conditionally, until the next meeting of the board of guardians; I think that it would be a much better arrangement than allowing a number of individuals to give orders.

14931. Is the present practice of granting orders for relief attended with any ill consequences?—I think it is attended with some ill consequences; I think that in the unions where a fixed salary is adopted, the orders are given so freely, that a proper discretion is not used with regard to the circumstances of the parties who receive those orders.

14932. You are of opinion that too many families are brought into a state of medical pauperism?—I do think so.

14933. Do you find, in those unions where the per case system is adopted, that orders are given with equal freedom?—Just the contrary; it is very remarkable; a relative of mine acts in two unions, in one of which the per-case system is adopted,

adopted, and in the other the system of salary is adopted; and he finds nearly double the number of orders given in one of those as compared with the other.

14934. Mr. *Miles.*] Which do you conceive would be most to the benefit of the poor, the per-case system or the payment by salary?—I think that both, under certain circumstances, might be adopted; a fixed salary for the regular paupers, and the per-case system for the casual paupers.

14935. *Chairman.*] Have you observed the plan recommended by Dr. Kay in his evidence?—I have.

14936. Do you approve of it?—I do.

14937. Do you think that an arrangement might be made on the plan recommended by Dr. Kay, satisfactory to the poor?—I should be very glad to see it adopted.

14938. You have said that the remuneration, in some cases, is not sufficient to induce the medical men to provide proper medicines?—Yes, I have stated that.

14939. Do you believe, speaking generally, of any cases within your own knowledge, that the medical men have been induced, in consequence of the low amount of their remuneration, to administer insufficient or improper medicines to the poor?—I should say that they have been induced, in many instances, to administer inferior remedies.

14940. Stimulants instead of tonics?—I would, perhaps, say bleeding instead of leeches; and some cheap bitter instead of quinine, and instances of that kind.

14941. Mr. *Liddell.*] In short, to use cheap drugs rather than good drugs?—Yes.

14942. *Chairman.*] Do not you think that, looking at the general result, it must be the interest as well as the duty of the medical man to provide properly for the cure of any patient?—It would, certainly, be his interest generally, but he has the means of satisfying both the patients and the guardians in many instances, without doing his duty.

14943. Would not the effect of that treatment be to protract or aggravate the disease?—It might be, but then it would be impossible for any unprofessional person to say that it was the course he pursued that aggravated it.

14944. Would not a medical man suffer in his interests, if, taking the charge of a district at a fixed salary, he were to treat his patients in a manner which would protract or aggravate their complaints?—If it were known that he did so, it would; but I think that he might afford his patients inefficient remedies, without its being discovered.

14945. But would it not have an immediate effect upon his interests, if his attendance upon a particular pauper were protracted in consequence of improper treatment?—If I may answer that question by an instance, I should be glad; it is very easy for a medical man, when attending a number of persons in the village at one time, to be very punctual and very attentive to them, and earn their good-will, and the good-will of the guardians, and at the same time save his pocket by affording them inefficient remedies.

14946. Would not that practice of saving his pocket by affording them inefficient remedies, be followed by the prolongation or the aggravation of the disease?—It might be so, but if the medical man is always engaged in the parish going by the door of the cottage daily, it is of very little consequence to him.

14947. Supposing that it was not a case in a village which he was obliged to attend daily, would it not produce inconvenience to him to be obliged to attend the case?—Yes, it might, but in such a case he would go the shortest way to cure the man.

14948. But suppose that the case was in the village, and therefore he was not exposed to inconvenience, would not additional expense be entailed upon him by his administering inefficient and improper remedies?—In some instances it might, but I have no doubt that the medical officer who wished to perform his duties at the least possible expense and trouble, has the means of doing it without being discovered, and without loss to himself, but with absolute gain.

14949. Mr. *Liddell.*] Can you in any case guard against a possible dereliction of duty on the part of the medical man who has the care of the poor?—You cannot guard against the possible dereliction of duty, but you may afford him an inducement to perform his duty properly.

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14950. *Chairman.*] Your opinion is that the lowness of the salary operates as a motive to the medical man to perform his duty inefficiently?—Yes.

14951. Would not the effect of that be to prolong complaints and to aggravate them, and prove injurious to the medical man himself?—Disease has a natural tendency to subside, and most diseases if left to themselves will get well.

14952. Then medical assistance is not so important as people have considered it?—I dare say it has been over-rated in some instances, and in some under-rated.

14953. Mr. *Liddell.*] Is not the best security for a medical man doing his duty his moral character?—Yes, it is.

14954. *Chairman.*] Have you any other observations to make with regard to the inconvenience which you have observed from the way in which the poor are obliged to apply for medical assistance?—I am not aware that I have; I think I have already, in the answers which I have given, stated my views upon that point.

14955. You have stated that in some cases the orders are given too freely, and in others too sparingly, but do you observe any inconvenience in the system now adopted with regard to the orders which entitle a man to medical assistance?—At first there was an inconvenience; but I am bound to say, in candour, that I think that inconvenience has been remedied by a greater facility in giving orders.

14956. By the parish officers understanding their duty better?—Yes.

14957. Probably the parish officers at first were ignorant of their duty, or were afraid of giving orders from fear of incurring pecuniary risk?—Yes.

14958. And that notion is now wearing off?—Yes.

14959. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You mean to say that the temptation to supply inefficient drugs is very great, and that it becomes necessary almost to the medical man, in order to do justice to himself, that he should economize?—Yes.

14960. I asked you before if competition was not carried to its extreme in the medical profession?—I believe it is carried to the extreme; and yet I believe that some benefit may arise from the competition.

14961. Is it the fact that a large proportion of the medical profession do not receive a fair remuneration for their education and their labour?—That I am sure is the case.

14962. They are probably exposed to more temptation than the members of any other profession to accept employment upon inadequate terms?—I think so.

14963. Mr. *Wakley.*] Having examined the present system, what plan would you recommend to the Committee should be adopted in its place?—My recommendations would refer to three great points; to the appointment of medical men, to their remuneration, and to their supervision.

14964. With reference to the appointment of medical men, what would you suggest?—I think it is desirable that the present districts should be abolished, and that the medical men should be appointed to the separate parishes.

14965. What would you gain by that arrangement, as an improvement upon the present system?—A more prompt and efficient attendance upon the poor.

14966. That is, you consider that, in the generality of instances, the residences of the medical officers would be nearer to the great majority of the poor, than they can be under the existing arrangement?—Yes, I do.

14967. If the medical districts were limited to a certain size, would there be any necessity for separate parochial appointments?—There would be much less necessity for it; still, I do not think that would cure the evil entirely.

14968. Should not all the medical practitioners who are duly qualified, who reside in the district, or near the district, and who are desirous of attending the poor, be deemed eligible candidates for the appointment?—Indeed, I think so; I think it would tend very much to the welfare of the poor, and satisfy the profession.

14969. *Chairman.*] They are now eligible, are they not?—I mean not only eligible, but elected.

14970. That it should be peremptory?—Not peremptory, but those who are resident should be employed if possible.

14971. You would not object to different parishes employing the same medical men?—It depends upon the size of those parishes.

14972. And upon the number of medical men?—Yes.

14973. That must vary in the different districts?—Yes.

14974. Mr. *Wakley.*] You have stated, that you would approve of the medical officers being appointed by the rate-payers; do you adhere to that opinion?—I do think it is the best; I think it would secure a separate parochial contract better than any other plan; and if the power of fixing the remuneration where, as I should propose, removed from the board of guardians, I conceive that there would be less reason for the power, which they now hold, of appointing the medical men.

14975. As it is not likely that that suggestion with reference to the appointments will be adopted, have you considered any other mode by which the appointments might be made satisfactory to the medical men and beneficial to the poor?—I think, by diminishing the size of the medical districts, and by adhering, as nearly as practicable, to the separate parochial appointments, the evil might be, in a great degree, removed.

14976. What are the chief qualifications that you consider necessary in candidates for attendance on the poor?—Of course there are legal qualifications, and, in addition to those, I think that every parochial medical officer ought to have received his license to practise, at least, two years before that appointment.

14977. That is, that the practitioner should be of two years' standing in his profession, before he should be deemed an eligible candidate for the appointment of a medical officer to a union?—Yes.

14978. But the recommendation which you have given would not deprive young men of fair openings for practice?—No, not at all; they would have all the openings that they ever had for practice.

14979. In what way would you propose to settle the amount of remuneration which should be awarded?—There appears to be two considerations on the question of remuneration, the one is, that such a remuneration should be adopted as on the average reaches a certain fair standard; that there should be an average standard of remuneration calculated on certain data, which are in the possession of those capable of making the computation; secondly, that a facility should exist for regulating the remuneration locally, without having recourse to that fixed standard; in other words, that the parties locally should have the power of settling the remuneration on certain, fair and equitable principles, and if they failed so to settle it, that then a central authority should bring in some fixed standard on which to act.

14980. Could you assume a case, and state to the Committee what you would deem to be the fair standard, under circumstances which you yourself may describe?—The elements of the computation are the price of medicines, the price of attendance, and the sum paid for distance; I should say that the average amount of remuneration for these three items, in every case of sickness, should amount to about 6*s.* 6*d.*

14981. *Chairman.*] That would be the per-case system at 6*s.* 6*d.*?—No, I would guard against that; I merely suppose that the salaries if raised up to a proper remuneration throughout the country, would amount to about that, on the average.

14982. Mr. *Wakley.*] That is assuming that the orders for relief would be given with the same freedom as they have been administered under the old system?—In fact that every case which needs medical relief, and which in the opinion of the guardians is entitled to parochial relief, should have it.

14983. *Chairman.*] Will you give a notion of what that would be, as compared with existing payments?—From what I have heard, I think that it would very nearly double them in the country at large.

14984. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you examined the returns?—I have.

14985. What do you find is the rate of payment per case now?—About 3*s.* 3*d.* on the average.

14986. That is supposing they had been paid per case, in the number of orders that have been given?—Yes.

14987. But you find, with reference to the payments in the unions, a very great variation?—Yes.

14988. Do you not find in some unions, that the payments are as high or even higher than the amount which you now recommend?—Yes, I do; I know a union in which it is higher.

14989. Do you know of more than one union in which it is higher?—I do not at present call to mind more than one, but I believe there are unions in which in certain classes of cases, namely those of casual paupers, it is higher.

14990. Seeing that the circumstances under which the unions are formed are so various,

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various, that it is impossible to adopt one standard which should be inflexibly adhered to, how would you recommend that the payments in the different unions should be modified, and by what parties should they be regulated?—I think the principle should be, to give both parties in the contract a fair share of the power of deciding what the remuneration should be; that is the principle to go upon, and the means of carrying out that principle I think would be, to allow the medical men resident in any union to appoint a representative; call him, if you please, a medical guardian, or an assessor, who might act with an assessor appointed by the board of guardians; and these two might fix the remuneration in every district.

14991. But suppose any dispute should arise between them?—Then I think a medical commissioner would be the best qualified person to settle that.

14992. A medical commissioner to be appointed by the crown?—Yes.

14993. Who should act with the present Poor Law Commissioners?—Yes.

14994. And to whom, in case of a dispute, every point of difference should be referred?—Yes, who should be the chief authority in the supervision of the medical officers. With regard to the mode in which the remuneration should be calculated, I have before stated, that it should be calculated in two parts; the one part a fixed salary for the regular paupers, those who are constantly in the receipt of in or out-door relief, and the other part a payment per case for casual paupers, able-bodied labourers and others applying for relief in sickness.

14995. The paupers, then, would be of two classes, one class being permanent and the other casual?—Yes.

14996. What would you recommend should be the payment per case, for attendance on the casual paupers?—Ten shillings would be a very fair rate of remuneration.

14997. And 6*s*. 6*d*. per case for the permanent?—A salary equivalent on the average to that sum, or which should bear a relation to it.

14998. Do you consider that some form of contract between the parties is inevitable?—I think it is inevitable; I think that there can be no such thing as a return to specific charges.

14999. Do you recommend that separate charges should be made for medicine, or that the medicine should be separately supplied by the guardians?—I should be glad in some respects to see that done, but I do not consider it essential to the success of an amended system.

15000. Would you recommend that a separate charge should be made for fractures and dislocations, and accidents of various kinds?—I should be glad to see that; but at the same time I should be very ready to coincide in a system which did not make that provision.

15001. Do you consider that it is essential that a separate charge should be made for attendance in cases of midwifery?—I do consider that absolutely necessary.

15002. Would you think it right that the medical guardian or assessor should fulfil any other function besides that of settling the amount of remuneration?—I think it would be desirable that he should act as the principal medical opinion in the union, and that he should sit at the board of guardians; I do not say that he should have the full power of a guardian in every respect, but that he should be a referee in all cases which required a medical opinion, and that the reports of the various medical men in the union should be made through him; that he should be the channel of communication between them and the Board, and also the channel of communication between them and the superior medical commissioner.

15003. In the rural unions, where the population is thinly scattered, what would you recommend should be the size of a medical district?—It must vary so very greatly, that it would be difficult to fix it, but I should think that the district you were describing, containing a population between 2,000 and 3,000, is quite large enough.

15004. As it is rather perhaps a matter of distance than of population, what would you recommend should be the size?—It should not be more than twelve square miles.

15005. Mr. *Miles*.] That depends upon the private practice of the medical man?—It does; I can only give an average; I cannot give that as an universal rule; I wish it to be understood that it is as an average that I recommend that.

15006. Mr. *Liddell*.] Do you think in thinly peopled districts, that any injury would result from allowing what may be called the voluntary principle, that is, in cases where a pauper requires the attendance of a medical man, that the family should be allowed to send for the nearest medical man, or the medical man best known

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known to the family, and that he should send in his account to the board of guardians?—I do not think it would answer; I think that the authorities ought really to provide adequate medical assistance.

15007. But supposing individuals named who should be the medical practitioners of the district by the authorities, do you think that any mischief would result from permission being given to the poor, in a thinly inhabited country, to send for them occasionally in that way, in cases of necessity?—I think that some mischief might result from it.

15008. What mischief?—I think that medical practitioners undertaking duties on that footing would not be sufficiently responsible for the due performance of them.

15009. *Chairman.*] How would you limit the charges in a practice of that kind?—That would be a very great difficulty; I do not know how it would be arranged.

15010. Mr. *Wakley.*] Would you not deem it to be an exceedingly desirable arrangement, if it could be adopted, that the poor should in all cases select their own medical attendant?—If it could be accomplished without injury to themselves, and without interfering with the rights of the rate-payers, I consider that it would.

15011. Could it not be accomplished, provided a fixed rate of payment per case were adopted; that is, if an order were given to a poor person, allowing him to procure medical relief, if the poor person delivered that order to a medical practitioner, and the medical practitioner, when he wanted payment, produced it as his voucher to the board of guardians, would not that accomplish the object fully?—In the first place, it would not remove the objection which I have stated to the system, that there would not be a supervision of the medical officer; he would not be sufficiently responsible; in the next place, as it would be impossible to calculate what proportion of orders each medical man would receive, it might turn out that the medical man was inadequately remunerated; a medical man might have two cases a year, and two 6*s.* 6*d.* would not remunerate the medical man; it is only when he attends a number that he is remunerated.

15012. Would not such a poor person on applying to a medical man stand in the place of a private patient?—If you could make the pauper stand in the place of an independent patient you would do a great thing; but I do not think it is possible; you cannot make the regulations which are applicable to private patients applicable also to paupers.

15013. If an arrangement could be made which would have the effect of allowing poor persons to select their own medical attendants, you would be glad to see it accomplished?—I should; inasmuch as I should be glad to see the poor people pleased with any boon that would not involve a sacrifice of principle.

15014. Do you think that that would be likely to throw the poor into the hands of the best qualified medical man?—No, I think not.

15015. Do you find that the poor are in the habit of selecting the most ignorant and disreputable medical practitioners?—Some do; not generally.

15016. And do not also some of the rich?—Yes; there is as much quackery among the rich as among the poor.

15017. *Chairman.*] Is it not a duty to protect the poor from applying to persons who are not properly qualified?—Yes.

15018. Mr. *Wakley.*] Might not the payment be withheld, provided they applied to a person not properly qualified by law?—That might remove the evil.

15019. You have stated what you think should be the size of the medical districts with a rural population; what do you consider should be the population which a medical man might attend in the densely crowded cities of this country?—I have received so little information from the densely crowded cities, and I know so little about them, that I should prefer leaving that question to be answered by some one better acquainted with the subject.

15020. Have you any further suggestions to make, with regard to the improvement of the present system?—I believe I have already stated that I think that it is extremely desirable that there should be a medical supervision by a medical commissioner appointed by Government, and having an authority under the commissioners in the matter of medical relief; and if I might be permitted to state one thing with regard to the assessor, there is a reason why that agent should be adopted in the case of the medical profession, where it would not be right to adopt it in the case of another contract made by the board of guardians with any other class of men: the reason is this; the inevitable connexion of private practice with

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the parochial appointment, and the impossibility of portioning out the districts, or of awarding the remuneration for the parochial appointment without interfering with private practice; hence it appears to me, that the medical men should have some such protection as I propose.

15021. That protection being found in the medical guardian and the medical commissioner?—Yes; more particularly in the medical guardian; because I consider that the medical commissioner would be a check over the medical officers, and a much better check than at present exists.

15022. In reflecting upon the proposals which you have made, can you discover that any evils would arise from the adoption of your plan?—I cannot conceive that any plan can be perfect; I am not prepared to state any inconveniences as likely to arise from the adoption of my proposals.

15023. Do you believe that the amount of remuneration and the size of the district would be generally settled by the medical guardian and the guardian appointed by the board, without reference to the medical commissioner?—I think in general that the parties would arrange it locally; that it would be a very rare case indeed when reference was necessary to be made to the commissioner; it would be so much to the interest of the parties to settle it locally and quietly, that I think reference would not often be made to the commissioner.

15024. But in the absence of such an officer as the commissioner, do you consider that disputes would be so easily settled?—No, I think not; I think without the right of an ultimate appeal to a central authority it would be a questionable innovation.

15025. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you recommend that the medical commissioner should be appointed by Government?—Yes.

15026. Resident in London?—Yes, and having the same relation to the Poor Law Commissioners that the Director General of the Army Medical Department has to the Horse Guards, or that the Physician General of the Navy has to the Admiralty.

15027. Has it never struck you that there is a feeling abroad that there are already commissioners enough?—I have heard that.

15028. *Chairman.*] You recommend that the appointment of the medical men should be by the rate-payers of each parish?—I should be glad to see it, but I think that the evils might be in a great measure cured without it.

15029. Do not you think that the population of a great many parishes would be much too small to enable them to exercise a proper judgment in that matter?—Yes, I have foreseen that difficulty, but not in the sense in which the question is asked; I do not think that a small population would be morally incapable of electing a medical man, but it might create confusion to allow a parish of 20 inhabitants to select a separate medical officer for that parish; it would be better that such parishes should be united.

15030. You would fix a certain amount of population which should have the power of electing a medical officer, without reference to parochial divisions?—Not without reference to parochial divisions, but I have no objection to see parochial appointments regulated by the amount of population.

15031. There being above 1,900 parishes in which the population does not exceed 100, and 700 in which the population does not exceed 50; in cases of that description you think two or three parishes might be joined together?—Yes, if adjacent.

15032. And if not adjacent, that the smaller parish might be joined to some larger parish?—Yes.

15033. Do you see any great advantage in those separate parochial contracts, as contrasted with the present arrangement by the board of guardians?—The great advantage that I see in it is this, that it would destroy the medical districts, which I do conceive are extremely injurious, as my evidence has gone to prove.

15034. What do you conceive to be the great mischief of the medical districts?—That it removes the pauper from prompt, adequate and efficient attendance.

15035. Would not that object be accomplished by any measure diminishing the size of the medical districts?—It would be very much obviated by that, as I have said before; I have a private opinion in favour of an election by the rate-payers, but I should be glad to see the districts reduced, and the object accomplished even without such an election.

15036. There may be disputes, here and there between the medical men and the board of guardians; but do you not think that, generally, the arrangements have been

been made by the boards on an amicable understanding with the medical men?—I cannot say that I think they generally have.

15037. You think the districts are too large?—Yes, I think that generally is the case.

15038. You have said that the amount of remuneration which you have proposed, would generally double that which is now given?—On the average it would; but I am aware that in some instances the full amount is given, and in some instances higher.

15039. Mr. *Langdale.*] You said that you would make a difference with regard to midwifery cases; what would you propose for those?—I should think it extremely desirable, that, whenever it is practicable, female midwives should be employed, that is, wherever there is one in the neighbourhood qualified to undertake it, and that the medical practitioner should only be called in when she sees a necessity for it.

15040. *Chairman.*] Is not that the practice now?—It is in some unions, but not in all; in many unions the medical practitioner takes all the midwifery cases.

15041. In the unions in which a female midwife is employed, the medical practitioner is called in in cases of difficulty?—Yes.

15042. And is remunerated by a separate charge?—Yes.

15043. That varying from 10*s.* to a guinea per case?—I am not able to state that; it appears to me that if the medical practitioner is called in in difficult cases, which require extreme thought and care, the payment of 10*s.* is too little to be thought of, though I am prepared to admit that 10*s.* upon the average of cases, if he attends the whole, might be more near the mark.

15044. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do you not think that in many parts of England there might be great difficulty in finding women who act as midwives?—There might be in some parts.

15045. *Chairman.*] And you would wish women to practise only when they were competent?—Yes.

15046. Have any arrangements been made by any of the boards of guardians that have fallen under your observation with regard to vaccination?—In some of them vaccination has been paid for specifically, in others it has been included in the contract.

15047. Have arrangements been generally made to encourage vaccination amongst the poor?—I really think that in one remarkable instance in my neighbourhood, vaccination has been discouraged, and not performed so regularly as under the old system.

15048. To what do you attribute that?—I am at a loss to what cause to attribute it; I should rather be inclined to attribute it to this circumstance, that whereas when the parish officers or the rate-payers provided medical assistance themselves, they were more personally anxious to keep away an infectious disorder for their own sakes, and therefore were prompt in ordering vaccination; now that it is transferred to the board, meeting at a distance from the village in which the small pox may threaten, there is less promptitude in ordering vaccination.

15049. You think it desirable that every encouragement should be given to vaccination?—Indeed I do.

15050. You think it desirable that arrangements should be made by the Boards for that purpose?—Yes.

15051. Is there not a great prejudice among the poor against vaccination sometimes?—I cannot say that I have seen it in my neighbourhood.

15052. Mr. *Liddell.*] Is not the operation of vaccination one that requires peculiar attention and care and observation on the part of the medical man, to see that it is effectual?—I believe that one reason why the small-pox is more prevalent is, because vaccination has been less carefully performed.

15053. And you have already said that the present medical arrangements are such that the natural result is a deficiency of that care and attention which ought to be bestowed upon the patients?—I had one union in my mind when I made that statement; I know that there was a great want of promptitude as regards vaccination when the small-pox appeared.

15054. Are there not, in cases of vaccination, certain observations requisite upon the part of the medical man, to be able to decide whether the real disorder has or has not taken place?—Certainly.

15055. And unless the real disorder has taken place, there is no security whatever against the small-pox?—None whatever.

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15056. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you received any information upon which you can rely relative to the operation of the medical clubs?—I have not any thing to communicate on the subject officially; I did not imagine that I should be asked the question: I have my opinion upon the subject; I think the medical clubs, as they are adopted now, under the sanction and direction of the commissioners and the boards of guardians, are highly prejudicial both to the poor and to the profession.

15057. *Chairman.*] To what medical clubs do you allude; to those which are sanctioned by the board, the entrance into which is made a condition prior to the receipt of relief?—That is the most undesirable form of medical clubs, because I conceive a club professing to be for independent labourers should not be under the control of the board of guardians.

15058. You conceive that that should be an arrangement between the medical man and the independent labourers, without being interfered with by the board of guardians?—Yes, and a great deal of dissatisfaction is felt by the medical men on account of this interference, by those who they felt had to deal with the paupers only.

15059. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you known medical men to have been deprived of their situations in consequence of not having taken part in the formation of medical clubs?—I think I have heard of such, but I am not prepared to state positively.

15060. *Chairman.*] Are there any independent medical clubs in your neighbourhood?—Yes.

15061. Altogether exempt from any interference on the part of the board of guardians?—Yes.

15062. How do they answer?—They may answer a little better, but I think the system very defective.

15063. In what respect?—It does not provide proper medical attendance for the poor.

15064. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is the subscription too low?—Yes, and it is a contract between the medical man and the poor, without any one to protect them.

15065. How many have you, and what is the constitution of those clubs?—They are different in various parts of the country; they sometimes take the form of self-supporting dispensaries, and sometimes that of independent medical clubs, the principle being the same in all, but the objections being modified in many; but all possessing that bad principle, as I conceive, that it is a contract between the poor and a medical person, without any one to protect them.

15066. *Chairman.*] Do you not think it very desirable, in the case of a labouring man having a family, if by his own industry he has the means of insuring his family against the visitation of disease, by subscription, that he should be encouraged to do so?—I by no means wish that any remarks I may make on this subject of medical clubs should be understood as expressing an opinion hostile to every system of mutual assurance, because I believe that mutual assurance may be adapted to all the casualties in life if the means of the poor are sufficient; it depends upon the sufficiency of their means, and whether the regulations of the system are such as will secure efficient medical attendance.

15067. In what respects do those medical clubs differ from the common Friendly Societies that provide for the common medical attendance of their members?—They differ in this respect, that the members of friendly societies are always, if I may so call them, picked individuals, able-bodied labourers, and persons who would not be admitted into that society if they did not produce proofs of good health; but the medical clubs consist of the whole population, and generally of the most sickly.

15068. You think it desirable that encouragement should be given to the poor to insure for themselves?—Yes, and I think a system might be adopted for that purpose. There is a society which has been lately established in the county of Buckingham, in which I have taken a great deal of interest, for providing medical relief on what is considered a very improved principle, and which I believe is a very improved society.

15069. What is the title of it?—"The South Bucks. Friendly Medical Relief Society."

15070. Be so good as to describe the nature of that society?—It is based upon these two principles; first, that the medical men are to be fairly paid for their actual labour performed in every case attended in that society; secondly, the payments of the poor are so calculated on the principles of assurance as to be sufficient to meet those pre-determined liabilities; and this the Committee will at once see is essentially

essentially different from the medical clubs where the payments go straight from the poor into the medical man's pocket on the principle of contract. It is that essential difference in the two systems which, I conceive, renders the former desirable.

15071. Am I to understand, that in the case of this Bucks Society, the payments are for each specific case of attendance?—They are made for each case according to its duration.

15072. It is not upon the principle of insuring against the risks of sickness, but it is a payment for positive attendance in the case of positive sickness?—The medical man receives a payment for actual attendance upon any case of sickness, but the poor contribute on the principle of insurance, by a certain monthly subscription.

15073. Can you state the terms of it?—They vary according to the ages on admission, upon the principle of the friendly societies.

15074. Have you a scale?—It is impossible to answer that question accurately, because it has been established for only six months.

15075. Is it over a great part of the county of Buckingham?—It professes to take in all the south of the county; that is, the labouring classes of any parish that chooses to join.

15076. Are there many subscribers?—There are not many; it is a system likely to advance very slowly; it is like the improved friendly societies, in which the labouring classes drop in as they perceive the advantages of it, and are not collected, as they are in the medical clubs, in a large number within a month or two.

15077. Is the system one that is well thought of by medical men?—There are I think 14 or 15 medical men connected with it; all the principal medical men, with the exception of one, in the towns into which it is introduced.

15078. Is it entirely supported by labourers, or are there honorary subscribers?—There are honorary subscribers.

15079. Will you state the number of each?—As the system has been in operation only six months, I cannot; I can only state this, that at the last quarterly meeting, the subscriptions from the poor were coming in as well as could be expected, and there had been very little medical attendance; consequently the fund was accumulating.

15080. Is there a regular scale for the honorary members?—They pay what they please; 5*s.* per annum constitutes an honorary member.

15081. What constitutes an ordinary member?—A monthly sum, varying from 4*d.* to 9*d.* according to the age of the party on admission.

15082. Of what age is the person who pays 4*d.*?—From 15 to 20.

15083. Under 15?—Three-pence; the only difference is this, that under 15 the contribution is 3*d.* a month in the South Bucks Friendly Society; from 15 to 20, on admission, is 4*d.*; then from 20 to 24, on admission, 4 ¼*d.*; from 24 to 28, 4½*d.*; from 28 to 32, 4 ¾*d.*; from 32 to 36, 5*d.*; from 36 to 39, 5 ¼*d.*; from 39 to 42, 5½*d.*; from 42 to 45, 5¾*d.*; from 45 to 48, 6*d.*; from 48 to 51, 6¼*d.*; from 51 to 54, 6½*d.*; from 54 to 57, 6¾*d.*; from 57 to 60, 7*d.*; from 60 to 62, 7¼*d.*; and an increment made of one farthing for every two years up to 72, and 9*d.* above 75.

15084. According to the average wages that are received in Buckinghamshire, do you consider that the labouring classes are in a condition to subscribe to that fund?—No; I think they are not.

15085. It must be those who are better off?—Yes; I do not see in the present state of the labourers how they can in large numbers subscribe to it; it will be particularly useful to the manufacturing classes.

15086. And the prosperity of the club would be a good deal affected by the amount of the honorary subscriptions?—The table is so calculated as to make the expense of the medical attendance fall upon themselves, but the honorary subscriptions are applied in a very useful and humane manner in defraying the expenses of management and in providing for large families, medical attendance for the illness of those families; that is, in some cases where their resources are small, the children are admitted free, or else for a small sum under what is stated in this table, and the deficiency is made up by the honorary subscriptions, so that the medical men receive the same for the cases attended in the classes charitably relieved as in that class which provides for itself, the remuneration being made up from the honorary subscriptions.

15087. Mr. *Wakley.*] Can you state what proportion the subscriptions of the labourers bear to those of the honorary subscribers; half or one-third?—The honorary subscribers as I happen to know, vary their subscriptions from 5*s.* to a pound.

15088. What is the aggregate?—I am not able to state that.

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15089. Have you printed any accounts?—No accounts, because I believe there have been very few cases attended. The Society consists necessarily of healthy persons, because certificates of health are demanded on admission; it is placed completely on the principle of mutual assurance.

15090. How is the controlling body elected?—From the honorary members.

15091. Then those whom you call independent members have no means of controlling the society?—They have only this means of controlling the society, by ceasing to belong to it; that is the most effectual control.

15092. Then the independent subscribers have, in point of fact, no voice in the government of the society?—No, and in that respect it is not different from Mr. Prebendary Becher's friendly societies; he considered it desirable that where the wealthy class took the trouble to originate advantageous plans for the poor, it was but right that they should manage them, and I think the safety of the societies and their well-doing very much depends upon good management; I think if they were left in the hands of the poor they would soon go to ruin.

15093. Do not you think it might be as well to let the poor have a share in the management?—If they were prepared for it, and were sufficiently educated, I should have no objection, but I do not think they are qualified.

15094. Mr. *Freshfield.*] The effect of their leaving the society would be most operative at the commencement, before they had contributed largely?—Yes.

15095. Mr. *Wakley.*] Then in that respect it does not differ from the society promoted by Mr. Smith, of Southam?—With regard to the parties who manage it, it does not.

15096. In the friendly societies who are the controlling parties?—The honorary members in the improved friendly societies; I have taken great pains on the subject, and established one in my neighbourhood, and find it succeed very well; the old fashioned clubs are fast waning; I am advised that it is a different state of things in the manufacturing districts; I can of course only speak of my own neighbourhood.

15097. Do you regulate the amount of subscription on the part of the independent labourer by the wages that he is receiving?—Not at all.

15098. You say that the labourers are in general in such circumstances, that they cannot afford to subscribe to this society?—I fear that that is generally the case.

15099. Can you state the wages of the labourers in Buckinghamshire?—I believe they are varying from 8*s.* to 10*s.*

15100. Supposing that the funds have accumulated by the joint subscriptions of independent subscribers and of honorary subscribers, and you have a case to attend, what is the scale of payment which the medical practitioner is allowed in that instance?—It is exactly the same; the medical man receives the same payment for every case of sickness that he attends, supposing the duration of the attack is the same.

15101. What is the payment?—It varies; the figures are not now before me, but I will state what the average payment for a case is; it is 9*s.* 6*d.*, including medicines.

15102. *Chairman.*] Do you know what the general payment in the friendly societies is for medical assistance?—There are none of that kind in my neighbourhood.

15103. Mr. *Wakley.*] In stating the subscriptions you said it was 3*d.* under 15 years of age?—Three-pence for those who are not assisted by the honorary members.

15104. Do you descend to infants with your scale?—Yes.

15105. Is there not much more sickness and greater mortality amongst infants than amongst any other class?—There is, and if necessary at any time, the members receive a sum from the honorary fund to make up deficiencies.

15106. So that, without the honorary fund, the society could not exist on its present footing?—I believe the society is so constituted that it will exist without the honorary fund, except so far as large families are concerned.

15107. Are not the subscribers to the honorary fund resident in the neighbourhood?—Yes, they are.

15108. Would they not be the persons that would have to contribute to the poor rate, for medical attendance for the persons that are sick belonging to your society?—Yes.

15109. May it not be a matter of economy, therefore, with them?—Yes, it may; but it may be mixed with a laudable desire to improve the condition of the labouring classes.

15110. Do you not think a desire in the labourers to be independent is laudable?—I should

I should wish the labourers to be independent, intellectually and pecuniarily, as soon as they can; but I fear that they will not be at present.

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15111. Seeing that parties may subscribe their money from interested motives, do you not think that it is humiliating and degrading to those whom you call independent members, that they should have no control over the society?—I do not think that it is viewed as such by them; and so long as it is not, I do not see why we should anticipate their prejudices.

15112. Do you know their feelings upon the subject; may they not feel somewhat hurt, and yet find it prudent not to express their feelings?—I have heard a poor man say that he was exceedingly obliged to the gentlemen of his district for instituting such a society, and for taking the trouble of the management of it; and I think that is the general feeling. I do not think they would wish to have the trouble of managing it; they feel it to be much more secure under the management of their wealthy neighbours.

15113. Can you state whether the amount that is subscribed by their wealthy neighbours is greater than the amount paid by the labourers?—Decidedly not.

15114. Then, those who have subscribed the smallest portion of the money have the control of the whole?—Yes.

15115. *Chairman.*] Be so good as to take that return in your hand; you have stated, upon information from the return that you formerly saw, that it appeared that there was no remuneration paid to the medical men in the Abingdon Union?—Yes, I judged so from the return.

15116. Will you read that return?—I see that here there is a salary of 130*l.*, and 110*l.* and 50*l.*, and 46*l.*, and 41*l.* and 44*l.*, making together 421*l.* for six medical men.

15117. Practising in the Union of Abingdon?—Yes.—[*Vide* Appendix (A.), p. 55.]

15118. Mr. *Wakley.*] Your statement was founded upon the official return presented to Parliament?—Yes.

15119. And this statement is founded upon another official return?—Yes.

George Webster, Esq, M. D., called in; and Examined.

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15120. Mr. *Wakley.*] WHERE do you reside?—In Dulwich, in the county of Surrey.

15121. You are a graduate in medicine?—I am.

15122. And a member of the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh?—Yes.

15123. Are you in practice as a general practitioner at Dulwich?—Yes.

15124. How many years have you held that situation?—Twenty-three years.

15125. You are also President of the British Medical Association?—I am.

15126. Have you, in your practice, become acquainted with the mode of conducting the medical department of the parishes under the old Poor Law, and also under the new system?—On a very limited scale I have; I have been surgeon about 15 years at different times, myself and my partner, for the Dulwich district, which is in the parish of Camberwell; it is a small district.

15127. Do you make a distinction between the two systems, the old and the new?—Between the old and the new; but I would make a further distinction between the old system and the improved old system.

15128. Before the last was adopted?—Yes; the system was very much improved in the parish in which I reside, under the old law.

15129. Do you call the new system an improvement upon your improved old system?—In some respects it would be so; in others it would not.

15130. Have you been yourself surgeon of a medical district in the union?—For the district of Dulwich, which is a part of Camberwell. There are four districts in the parish of Camberwell; it is a large parish and a single union, under the Poor Law Amendment Act; I was appointed a surgeon for the Dulwich district.

15131. How long did you hold the office?—I am not sure whether I do not hold it now; I believe I do.

15132. Are you receiving a salary, arising from that appointment?—I have not received any salary for 15 months, or thereabouts.

15133. When were you appointed?—I was appointed in January 1836.

15134. Will you be kind enough to state, under what circumstances you held the appointment, and how you are situated now with regard to it?—I was appointed in

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January 1836, at the recommendation of the guardians, by the Poor Law Commissioners; it was not a contract, but an appointment. I have a copy of the appointment. I ought to state that there was a wish expressed by the guardians to form a Poor Law Medical Club in Camberwell. About the month of August 1836, circulars were sent round, bearing the names of all the guardians, with the clergyman of the parish at the head, stating, that after a certain time, Lady-day following, no medical relief would be given out of the workhouse, that therefore the engagement with the present medical men would necessarily cease; it was therefore of great importance to form a club. I afterwards received a circular, to request me and other gentlemen to meet at the vestry, and consider the question of a medical club; a considerable number of gentlemen, indeed all the gentlemen connected with the district, met; that meeting was afterwards adjourned, and other medical men of the neighbourhood, in about a week, met again, in connexion with those in the parish of Camberwell, and they came to the resolution, that it was highly inexpedient to form a medical club upon the basis, and at the scale, and including the persons mentioned in the schedule which had been sent round with the circulars. I mention the medical club, because it has connexion with my suspension from office afterwards; the club was not formed at that time; no further notice was taken of it, I believe, for some time. In the month of December I received a circular, which I will read:—"Vestry Hall, Camberwell.—Dear Sir, I am desired by the board of guardians to communicate to you, that they have it in contemplation to make some alteration in the arrangements for the medical attendance of the poor of the parish, of which, as soon as finally settled, the earliest intimation will be given.—I am, dear sir, yours very truly, Thomas Webb Gilbert, Vestry Clerk." I did not know in what light to view this; I supposed it was to increase our salaries; that there was to be an alteration in the arrangements; I could not tell, and I heard nothing more, till within two or three days of Lady-day 1837, as far as my memory will serve me.

15135. *Chairman.*] What date is the notice?—The 15th of December 1836.

15136. Mr. *Wakley.*] That was about six months from the time of your being suspended?—About three months; I then received a document, which I think it important to read: "Vestry Hall, Camberwell, 22d March 1837. At a meeting of the board of guardians, the following resolutions were passed." This was the first intimation that I had, following up that note. "1. That a medical attendant be appointed, whose duty it shall be to visit the inmates of the workhouse, and to examine paupers as to their capacity for working. 2. That medical attendants be appointed for the four districts of Camberwell, St. George, Peckham and Dulwich." That was as formerly. "From those gentlemen who have consented or may consent to belong to the medical club, provided they may come within the regulations of this board." I had not resigned my situation, nor yet had another gentleman; from circumstances, two others had resigned. "3. That any guardian who shall take upon himself—" it is not important to read this. "That the salary of the medical gentleman attending the workhouse and examining paupers, pursuant to the first resolution, be 60*l.* per annum; that the salary of the medical gentlemen for the districts of Camberwell, Peckham and St. George, be 50*l.* each, and for Dulwich, 30*l.* per annum;" that was reducing it one-half, without any notice whatever. "6. That the persons to be appointed, be licentiates of the Apothecaries' Company, and members of the College of Surgeons. 7. That copies of the foregoing resolutions be sent to the following persons; viz. Messrs. Browne, Forbes and Young, Blaland, Flower, Hughes, King, Manico, Ward, and to Dr. Webster and Mr. Watson (as the only medical residents in Dulwich), with a request, that they will signify to the clerk, by five o'clock on Saturday next, 25th instant, their willingness, or otherwise, to accept either of the appointments, and attend the board at that hour with their qualifications in conformity with the sixth rule. By order of the board, T. W. Gilbert, Clerk." I was somewhat puzzled about this document; I went to the board to remonstrate, to say that it was unjust, that I had not resigned my appointment, that I had not been dismissed by the Poor Law Commissioners, and that I thought it extremely harsh and a piece of arbitrary power, that because I did not or would not belong to a medical club, without any sort of notice, I should be dismissed from my situation. They had some difficulty, I understood, from what I learned then from one of the guardians, in filling up those supposed vacancies (I ought to say, that there were two positive vacancies in the parish), they could get no one in the mean time to accept the office for Peckham, and with some difficulty for Dulwich; but a young man

was

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was appointed *pro tempore* for Dulwich. I then wrote to the board of guardians, protesting against such conduct; that I had not resigned, and giving my reasons pretty fully, and I denied that they had the power to do this. I have the letter here, and I received this reply:—"Sir, I am desired by the board of guardians to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th, and in reply must beg to refer you to my communication in December last, also the instructions submitted to you previous to Lady-day, and to call to your recollection the fact of your subsequently attending the board,"—I was in the vestry-hall, but never called in,—"and declining to comply with their request as regards the medical club." That is all I think that specially regards what I have referred to. I then corresponded with the Poor Law Commissioners, and did not receive any satisfactory answer. After several letters had passed, which it is needless to read, I received an official communication that they could not for a moment suppose that such a respectable board of guardians as the Camberwell guardians could do any thing that was harsh or improper. I ought to mention, that in one of my letters, I stated that I should be obliged to take an opinion upon this case; that I considered that I was illegally deprived of the situation. That opinion I had occasion to take; I took the opinion of Sir William Follett; his opinion was, that what they called a notice was no notice at all, and that I was then the legally qualified surgeon of the district, and could recover my salary. I waited, hoping that they would see the propriety of reinstating me; I had communications personally with some of the guardians, as to how the matter stood, and wished them to endeavour to arrange the matter, for I did not wish to bring an action against my neighbours, and there the matter has rested from that time; I have not since demanded my salary. I ought to state that I demanded the salary at the end of the year, and it was refused; I had a note from the vestry-clerk, refusing it.

15137. *Chairman.*] Since this correspondence with the board of guardians, have you been performing the duties of medical attendant of the district?—I have not; I had no orders.

15138. When did you cease to perform the duties of the medical officer of the district?—I did not receive any orders after Lady-day 1837, but I sent notice to the gentlemen who generally gave orders in Dulwich, that I was ready as heretofore to do my duty.

15139. But, in point of fact, you have not done the regular ordinary duty of medical attendant of that district since Lady-day 1837?—In point of fact, I have not received orders, but I have performed a great part of the duty.

15140. What do you mean by "orders"?—An order to attend paupers; I have attended many of the poor since without "orders."

15141. You may have attended the poor, from other considerations, but you have not attended them under orders from the parish authorities?—No.

15142. Have you made regular returns to the board since Lady-day 1837?—Certainly not; the book was sent for, and it was not returned to me.

15143. Have you acted under the orders of the board since Lady-day 1837?—Certainly not.

15144. Up to what period were you paid your salary?—Up to Lady-day, 1837.

15145. Then your salary was paid for the whole time of your performing your duty?—Yes.

15146. The question between you and the board appears to be, not whether you ought to receive a salary, you performing the duty all the time; but whether you ought to receive a salary, you being, as you consider, improperly and illegally dismissed?—Yes.

15147. You consider yourself to be legally entitled to a salary?—I do, according to the advice which I have taken of Sir William Follett.

15148. Mr. *Wakley.*] You state that yours was an appointment?—Yes.

15150. Could the guardians, according to the 46th section of the Act, dismiss you without misconduct, and also without the approbation of the Commissioners?—As I read the Act, certainly not. I have received no dismissal to this day from the board of Commissioners.

15151. *Chairman.*] Did you receive any intimation from the board of guardians beyond that letter which you have read to the Committee, that your office had ceased?—No, I received no other whatever.

15152. The nature of that intimation was, that any of the medical officers who

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who did not agree to attend the parties who were admitted into the medical club should not be the medical officers of the union?—Yes.

15153. When was that?—Twenty-second of March 1837, three days before Lady-day.

15154. You did not acquiesce in those proposals of the board of guardians?—I did not; I may mention that there was another gentleman in precisely the same circumstances.

15155. Mr. *Wakley*.] Was there any allegation against you of negligence in the treatment of the poor, or of misconduct of any kind?—No, never; on the contrary, I received several intimations of approbation.

15156. And the only ground on which, as you presumed, you were not to continue in the office was, that you did not belong, or would not belong, to the medical club?—Yes, the official letter states that.

15157. Had you any communication directly with the Poor Law Commissioners upon the subject?—I had; I wrote letters several times to them addressed to Mr. Chadwick, stating the circumstances.

15158. Had you any replies?—The only reply I had was, that they could not suppose that so respectable a board as that of Camberwell would act without reason.

15159. Do you consider it in the highest degree arbitrary to insist that you should belong to a medical club before you would be entitled to hold the office of medical officer of the district?—I do; the other medical men felt the same.

15160. And in which medical club persons were admitted who were not receiving parochial relief of any kind; was it not so?—It was stated that the members of the clubs were to be artisans, handicraftsmen, mechanics and female servants.

15161. Is there any action pending at this time between you and the guardians?—I brought no action.

15162. You have stated that you belong to the British Medical Association; in consequence of what circumstances was that society established?—Greatly in consequence of the injuries that were inflicted on the medical profession in connexion with the Poor Law Amendment Act, and those medical clubs that were introduced under the authority of the guardians.

15163. Has the Association, or have the members of it, turned their attention particularly to parochial medical relief?—They have; they appointed a committee to consider the matter; they have corresponded with many of their own members in the country, with other gentlemen, and have taken other measures to collect information upon the subject.

15164. What opinions have you formed of the present system, in consequence of the information which you have received?—That there are many defects in the system.

15165. Have you heard the evidence which Mr. Rumsey has given?—I have; I have been in the room most of the time.

15166. Is the information which you have derived in accordance with the statements which he has made to the Committee?—Precisely of a similar description; I do not know that in any one particular, after hearing Mr. Rumsey's evidence, with respect to the collection of facts, I differ from him.

15167. As regards the statement of facts which you have received from different parts of the country, in your correspondence with members of the Association, and members of the medical profession generally, there is no disagreement?—No disagreement whatever.

15168. Have you heard Mr. Rumsey's recommendations with regard to an improved system?—I have.

15169. Do you agree with him in the plan which he has proposed?—I do generally.

15170. Are there any additions or omissions which you would suggest?—I will, with the permission of the Committee, read a plan which I drew out last night for parochial medical attendance and inspection; simple outlines. First as to the size and population of the medical districts: in dense populations the number of inhabitants in a district ought not, I think, to exceed 10,000, to be attended by any one medical gentleman, reducing the number according to the state of pauperism,—I mean in cities, in the metropolis, for instance.

15171. But

15171. But you would make a wide distinction with regard to the numbers to be attended between such places as the neighbourhood of St. George's, Hanover-square, and St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green?—No doubt. That is what I allude to; but not to exceed 10,000 in any instance.

15172. Do you not think that there would be many more paupers among 10,000 at the east end of the metropolis than among 20,000 in St. George's, Hanover-square?—Certainly. Secondly, that rural districts should average from eight to twelve square miles; not to exceed twelve in any case. This would give an average, from returns which I have seen, of a population of about 2,500. The average population of the whole of the present medical districts is about 5,000. Then, secondly, on the subject of remuneration; a salary should be allowed, the medical officers should be paid by a salary calculated upon the number of cases, the number constantly sick, and the distance or extent of the districts. There are minor circumstances which might be taken into consideration. I may state, perhaps, here, that, from certain returns which I have seen, the average charge for one person constantly sick ought to be about five guineas; that is, supposing that you have a succession of persons sick for 52 weeks of illness, it ought to be five guineas, that would give 6 *s.* 6 *d.* each case, and this would come to 6 *d.* a head on the whole population of England. Then I think that as to the matter of medical supervision, that is a very important point, That will be a third branch of the plan. First, that there should be a medical commissioner or director appointed by the Crown, to whom all points of difference between the medical guardians or assessors (who will be mentioned presently) and the medical officers should be referred. Secondly, that a medical guardian or assessor be elected for each union by the resident medical practitioners, or the majority of them, willing to attend the poor, to act with an assessor to be appointed by the guardians to calculate the amount of salary to be paid to the medical officers, and to determine the size of the districts, &c. Then should the medical gentlemen not agree in appointing the assessor or the medical guardian, as he might be called, I should then appeal to the medical commissioner or director, whom I mentioned under a former head.

15173. Then you agree with Mr. Rumsey in the suggestions that he has made?—As far as I have gone, I believe we differ in very few respects.

15174. The Committee would like to hear what you conceive to be the "improved old system"; will you describe the three systems?—I remember as far back as 1816 or 1817, there was a medical gentleman for the whole of that immense parish, which contains about 40,000 inhabitants; the duty was very imperfectly performed, as you may suppose. The sick, in the district where I resided, never thought of sending for the parochial medical attendant, who lived at some miles distance.

15175. *Chairman.*] What did they do?—They came to myself or my partner.

15176. Mr. *Miles.*] What was the salary attached to the office?—I think it was about 120 *l.* or 130 *l.* for the whole district, including the workhouse. The parish was after that divided into four districts, and small salaries were attached to each; the salary for Dulwich at that time was first 15 *l.* and then 20 *l.*; by and bye, from a gentleman of the committee of officers paying more attention to the wants of the poor, and from other circumstances, the salaries were raised; it was considered that the medical men were not sufficiently paid to do their duty well, and the salaries were raised.

15177. Mr. *Wakley.*] What were the salaries at the time the Poor Law Amendment Act was introduced?—Two of the districts were 80 *l.* each, another district and the workhouse, 120 *l.*, and Dulwich was about 40 *l.* at that time.

15178. Mr. *Miles.*] Making together 320 *l.*?—The amount was 340 *l.*, I think; but there were a great many extras paid for midwifery, and for journies to a distance, and for leeches and suspended orders, so that in reality my salary averaged about 80 *l.* a year.

15179. Mr. *Wakley.*] For Dulwich?—Yes; then the third system, that is the system under the new law, was managed in a different way; the whole expense was conducted differently; a salary was given for Dulwich of about 60 *l.*; the two districts at the old salary of 80 *l.*, and I think the workhouse and another district about 120 *l.* I am not quite sure of the sums, but altogether amounting to about the same sum as the old salaries.

15180. *Chairman.*] So that the salaries, at the time the new Poor Law was

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first introduced, were the same as they had been before?—Yes, but without any extras for midwifery, or any thing of that description.

15181. What has happened since?—Since that the salaries have been very considerably reduced; at present the salary for the Dulwich district is fixed at 30*l.*, the salary for the three other districts 50*l.* each. The workhouse is now separate; it is 60*l.*

15182. Is the number of paupers attended since the new Poor Law has been introduced as great as it was under the old system?—I think not; orders are not so frequently given now as they were formerly.

15183. In that case, the demand on the medical man's time and attendance is not so great as it was before?—Certainly not; and I will at once confess, that I think the salary now is about what it was, in proportion to the work done, under the improved old system.

15184. Then in proportion to the work done, you think the salaries, even reduced as you state them to have been, are about the same remuneration as the salaries under the improved old system?—No, I did not mean under the reduced system; I have not acted under the reduced system; I speak of the first appointment that was made under the new Act.

15185. You think, not allowing for any extras is about an equivalent to the diminished number of paupers?—I think about that.

15186. Have you any other observation to make?—I wish to state a point in addition to Mr. Rumsey's observations. I do think that there is a class of labourers and others above the grade of paupers, who ought to have some assistance in the way of medical relief; that is the idea that I have formed, and that if something additional were allowed to the medical officers, those persons who may not be just paupers, might have medical attendance at a very moderate rate; in reality, that the parish should pay part, and the poor person himself or relative should pay part, thereby begetting a feeling of independence.

15187. How would you determine of whom those persons should consist?—There might be some difficulty; but the parochial authorities generally know the circumstances of those parties, and they could judge.

15188. Do you think that those parties should receive an order from some authority or other?—Yes, they should pay so much per case.

15189. Is it not in the discretion of the board in the case of a person receiving medical relief, to determine that the relief should be given by way of loan to the poor person, or that the relief should be partly given, and partly of that he should be called upon to pay himself?—I believe in some districts that is done; but in the one in which I practise it has never been done.

15190. Do you think the poor are well attended to?—I do not at present. There is a young man who attends the poor, but who lives three or four miles from the extreme end of his district, and he has another district in the opposite direction.

15191. Mr. *Wakley.*] And you and another medical practitioner reside on the spot, and take no share in the treatment of the poor?—I have had many cases which have come to me; cases of midwifery where I and my assistant have attended, where the person who is now appointed could not attend; a boy came to me recently with an artery divided; he would have died before the medical officer could have come; and several fractures have occurred, and I, from humanity, of course, have attended; and the cases have fallen to my share, not to my profit; I do not mean to bring any charge of neglect; I think the gentleman who has been appointed has attended as well as he could.

15192. Your charge would be against the board of guardians, in not providing proper medical practitioners?—My charge is against the system.

15193. Mr. *Miles.*] Under the old system, the orders for medical attendance were given very indiscriminately by the overseers, were they not?—They were.

15194. So that you had a large number, whether paupers or not, to attend?—At Dulwich it was not so exactly; but we had occasionally those who ought not to have been ranked as paupers; and I have remonstrated at certain orders being given.

15195. So that very much closer attention was requisite under the one system than under the other?—Certainly; there has been something more of supervision, as regards the orders, under the new law.

APPENDIX.

(A.)

MEDICAL OFFICERS, &c., in the ABINGDON UNION, obtained from the Annual Returns for Paid Offices; Years 1837–8, 1838–9.

J. Box, Abingdon	£. 130 per annum.
J. T. Hester, Abingdon	110 - ditto.
W. Rusher, Oxford	50 - ditto.
E. Coucher, Abingdon	46 - ditto,
J. Walker, Abingdon	41 - ditto.
S. Viveash, Stadhampton	44 - ditto.
TOTAL	£. 421 per annum.

The above were the Medical Officers for the last year, and are the Medical Officers for the present year.

A RETURN of the MEDICAL SALARIES in the ABINGDON UNION.

DISTRICTS.	NAMES.	SALARIES. £.	s.	d.
First	John Box	130	–	–
Second	James T. Hester	110	–	–
Third	William Rusher	50	–	–
Fourth	Edward Cowcher	46	–	–
Fifth	Thomas Walker	41	–	–
Sixth	Samuel Viveash	34	–	–
	£.	411	–	–

Rich^d Ellis, Clerk.

Mercurii, 20° *die Junii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Langdale.	Mr. Wakley.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Henry Wyldbore Rumsey, Esq., again called in; and Examined.

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15196. Mr. *Wakley*.] DO you wish to make any addition to the evidence which you gave yesterday?—I omitted to state yesterday the manner in which I think that the estimated average expense of medical relief for the paupers ought to be adapted to the particular circumstances of each union.

15197. *Chairman*.] Do you mean the general habits and the expense of living in that neighbourhood?—Yes, to all the peculiarities of the union.

15198. Mr. *Wakley*.] You mean every circumstance which could affect the charge for medical attendance?—Yes, I do mean that; I said that, on the average, the salaries for the regular paupers ought to be equivalent to about 6*s*. 6*d*. per case; now I think that the ratio which such a salary would bear to the total expenditure for the relief of the poor should be ascertained, and that that ratio or per centage should for the future be the guide as to the expense of medical relief; a given per centage upon the total expenditure would always be in proportion to the pauperism of the district, and therefore generally in proportion to the pauper sickness; but I think that this per centage should vary between a maximum and minimum, according to the peculiar circumstances of each union or district or parish, and that that maximum and minimum should be fixed; and in case the local assessors which I proposed failed to decide on the amount of remuneration, then the medical commissioner should have the power of fixing upon that per centage within the prescribed limits; those limits I should think ought to be four and seven per cent. on the total expenditure for the relief of the poor.

15199. *Chairman*.] Do you know at all what the ratio at present is between the medical expense and the general expenditure upon the poor in the unions with which you are acquainted?—I believe about four per cent.

15200. Are you speaking of your own union?—I would rather not give that answer positively; I have only heard that per centage as the result of certain calculations which are being made by Mr. Farr, on the returns.

15201. Mr. *Wakley*.] You have referred, in the answer which you have just given, to the state of the population in the rural districts, and not in cities or in towns?—In the rural districts only.

15202. Not being acquainted with densely inhabited cities, and the circumstances connected with them, you would not give any estimate with reference to the ratio which the payments for medical attendance might there assume with regard to the amount of poor-rate?—I would rather not give such an estimate.

15203. *Chairman*.] But without giving an estimate upon the subject, are you of opinion that in densely peopled towns the proportion borne by the medical expenditure to the general expenditure of the poor ought to be a smaller one than in the rural districts?—It ought.

15204. Mr. *Liddell*.] And that expenditure, according to your calculation, should fluctuate in the proportion of from four to seven per cent. to the whole expenditure of the union?—Yes, in the rural districts.

15205. *Chairman*.] You have alluded to the necessity of varying the arrangement for medical relief, with reference to the peculiar circumstances of unions; what peculiarities do you particularly refer to?—There are several peculiarities; one would be the general rate of medical charges in the union; another would be the proportion of inhabitants receiving medical relief at the public charge; another would be the size, and the necessary or natural distance of the parishes in the union; those are all circumstances which would vary the per centage in each case.

15206. Would

15206. Would the remuneration for medical relief in any degree be guided by the general mode of living in particular parishes, and the general expense of living?—I am not aware of that.

15207. Do not you imagine that, in those districts where the general mode of living is the most expensive, the medical charges are the highest?—That depends upon whether the population is very dense in those districts.

15208. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you brought with you the "Rules of the South Bucks Friendly Medical Society?"—I have.

15209. Will you put them in?—

[*The Witness delivered in the same.*—Vide *Appendix*, page 78.]

15210. Mr. *Liddell.*] At present the average expense of the medical department is about four per cent. upon the whole expenditure for the relief of the poor?—I have heard so.

15211. You propose that there should be a maximum and minimum in future of the medical expenditure, and that it should fluctuate between the two extremes of four and seven per cent.?—I do propose that.

15212. Do not you think that the natural result of such an arrangement as that would be, that ultimately the expenditure, in nearly all cases, would subside into the maximum?—No, I certainly think it would not, with the checks to expense which might be introduced into the system.

15213. You think that where in one union seven per cent. was allowed for the medical department, of which, of course, the remuneration to the medical attendant would have been the principal item, the natural tendency would not be that a similar amount of remuneration would be claimed and expected in the adjacent unions?—I think, under similar circumstances, the remuneration would generally be alike, and so I think it should be.

15214. Do you think that circumstances might commonly be found to be sufficiently analogous to induce the medical attendants to claim an equal remuneration?—If that question refers to the unions in the country at large, I should say, certainly not; I am convinced that there is a very great variation in the country at large, as to the expense both of private medical attendance and of public medical attendance.

15215. You consider, then, that the charges upon the unions might, in some cases, be limited to as low a per centage as four per cent., whereas, in others, they might be raised to seven per cent.?—Yes, I do think so, decidedly.

15216. And that there would be no tendency on the part of the medical attendants to claim in all cases a larger sum?—Certainly not.

15217. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you not think that extraordinary circumstances may occur in a district, giving an excess of labour or reducing labour very materially, which would affect the expenditure upon the poor-rate, but would that be a circumstance which should also affect the remuneration for medical relief?—Such circumstances would almost always produce distress, and distress invariably produces pauper disease; and if pauper disease increases, so should the remuneration increase.

15218. Mr. *Liddell.*] But other circumstances might remove general distress, and, by parity of reasoning, where general prosperity increases, sickness will diminish?—Then, according to the plan I propose, as the medical salary is always to bear a ratio to the general expenditure, that would also diminish.

15219. In the case of an epidemic in a rural district, should you consider that any additional remuneration should be allowed for medical attendance?—No, because I think that my plan would meet that very emergency.

15220. For instance, during the prevalence of the influenza in the winter before last, there was hardly a single individual of the labouring classes that was not attacked with that disorder?—I imagine that that must necessarily increase the general expenses for the relief of the poor, and so, according to my proposal, it would increase the medical salary.

15221. *Chairman.*] The salary of the medical attendant would be perpetually fluctuating, bearing a certain proportion to the expenditure for the relief of the poor?—Yes.

15222. Mr. *Wakley.*] You mean that the calculation should be made on the average of three or four years; you would not make a calculation every year?—I think that the per centage should be decided upon the average of a certain

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number of years, but that after the per centage is decided upon, it should be calculated on the actual expense of the year.

15223. *Chairman.*] Of the year to which the medical attendance applies?—Yes.

15224. Mr. *Wakley.*] How do the members of the South Bucks Medical Society obtain the assistance of a medical man in case of sickness?—They bring a certificate from the clerk of the society, stating that they are entitled to relief; that certificate need not be obtained until 24 hours after they apply to the medical man, so as not to interfere with the prompt administration of relief.

15225. So that the medical officer is bound to attend them at once, upon their own individual or personal application?—He is so.

15226. In consequence of that arrangement, you consider that medical assistance is furnished as promptly as it can be?—I cannot conceive how it can be more so.

Robert Ceely, Esq., called in; and Examined.

Robert Ceely, Esq.

15227. Mr. *Wakley.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Aylesbury.

15228. How long have you resided there?—I have resided there 17 years.

15229. Have you been in practice there as a surgeon during that period?—I have.

15230. Have you any official appointment in the union?—I have not; not in the union.

15231. Do you hold any public appointment at Aylesbury?—I am one of the surgeons of the Buckinghamshire Infirmary at Aylesbury.

15232. Have you many patients in that Infirmary in the course of the year?—We have 23 beds, and they are generally well filled.

15233. Have you had any personal experience in parochial practice?—I have had a good deal formerly.

15234. Did you hold any parochial appointment before the new Poor Law was passed?—Immediately before I did.

15235. What was the nature of the parochial arrangements formerly in Aylesbury, or in its neighbourhood, 20 or 25 years since?—Twenty-five years ago they were tolerably satisfactory to all parties; medical men were very fairly remunerated, and there were no differences between them and the authorities; more recently than that, I should say 20 years ago, the arrangements were by tender principally, though not entirely; in the large parishes especially they were by tender.

15236. What effect had the tender system, at that time, upon the interests of the poor and the practitioners?—A very bad effect upon both; it was the cause of a great deal of unworthy competition amongst the medical men; but I must in truth say, that the medical men were more to blame than the authorities.

15237. Did you expect, upon the formation of the union, that more suitable arrangements would be adopted?—I certainly did; because I thought that more enlightened views would be entertained upon the matter.

15238. Will you state what took place with reference to that subject, when the union was formed?—The union was first declared in July 1835; population 21,480, 40 parishes, 4 districts; and upon the first notification by the guardians of their desire to treat with medical men, I took an opportunity of pointing out to the medical men the necessity of coming to proper arrangements with the guardians; and availed myself of an opportunity, which I had often sought before, of inducing the medical men to cease from that shameful competition which had so frequently subsisted; accordingly, I was appointed deputy from the medical men to treat with the guardians; and the guardians, having previously been instructed by Mr. Gilbert, were particularly anxious to have contracts, by a payment per case, with a limitation of the maximum of the cost, which we thought was a very objectionable proceeding: we should have had less objection to a payment per case, but then the limitation by a maximum seemed to violate the principle of a payment per case, and, therefore, we proposed to the guardians that they should pay us a salary; the guardians objected to that arrangement, and insisted upon our making arrangements on their terms and conditions; we were anxious to co-operate with the guardians, and being desirous to enter into arrangements with them, we pointed out the difficulty of forming an agreement upon such principles. I have a statement here, in print, of the particulars

culars, which, perhaps, I had better put in, to save time; but I merely give a summary of the interviews which I had with the guardians.

15239. The Committee would be glad to hear the statement read before they receive it?—I will read it; it is in the form of a statement to the editor of a local paper. There was a great deal of misconception abroad, and we had the credit of forming a combination against the guardians; we were anxious to avoid the imputation of combination, for no such existed; having myself been the medium of this communication; and having no such intention myself, and believing that others had none, I thought it right to draw up a statement of this kind, to disabuse the public of that opinion. If the Committee will permit me I will read the statement:—

"As much misconception and some misrepresentation prevail, relative to the part taken by the majority of the established practitioners in the Aylesbury Union, in the arrangements for the medical officers, they beg the use of your columns for the following statement: When the intention of providing the medical officers for the union was first announced, 12 of the established practitioners (their names being mentioned), all more or less engaged in parochial practice within the union, communicated to the board of guardians their willingness to enter into arrangements for the above purpose, provided the districts could be so disposed as to enable them to undertake the duties with the expectation of satisfactorily discharging them, no one of these individuals contemplating the sole charge of either of the four districts into which the union had been divided; the board, consequently, agreed to treat with any one individual as the responsible medical officer for each district, permitting him to make private arrangements with any other practitioners he might think desirable to assist him. Mr. Lee of Haddenham, Mr. Moody of Tring, Mr. Woodward of Bicester, and Mr. Cowley of Winslow, all practitioners engaged within the union, subsequently offered their additional assistance, each in his respective neighbourhood. Out of this number of 16 individuals four were found disposed to become candidates for the above offices, subject to the understanding just mentioned, having been promised the assistance of three or four of the above practitioners in each district. It was then considered proper to propose to the board, that as the office was one of much labour and great responsibility, and could not, with advantage or propriety, be confined to the mere affording of medical relief, but should comprehend the prevention and cure of disease and the detection of imposture, it would therefore be more economical for the board to pay, and more grateful to the medical officer to receive, what might be deemed a fair salary than to act upon the terms and conditions recently advertised. Being assured that no other mode of arrangement than a contract by tender would be acceded to, a specification in that form, of a sum in the gross, was made for each district, according to the old practice which still prevails in most unions out of the county. This is what the medical officer proposed; or if preferred, a sum equal in amount to the average cost for the last three years of the several parishes comprised in each district. These proposals were rejected, not on the score of the amount of the sum, but because they were not made in conformity with the considerations of tender prescribed by the board, which consisted in a specification of a rate per case, with a scale of abatement, according to the increase of numbers and the mention of a gross sum, which should declare the maximum or greatest amount of the cost, with a few extras carefully provided for; for instance, if there should be 500 cases, 3*s.* per case; 700, at 2*s.* 6*d.*; above that 2*s.* 3*d.*; yet the total cost, exclusive of a few extras, should not exceed a sum mentioned by the candidate. One of the districts was disposed of, on this occasion, on such terms, to a candidate not of this number.

15240. *Chairman.*] Was that proposal of so much per case upon which one district was taken made by the board of guardians?—Those were the terms and conditions upon which they professed themselves ready to offer it.

"The other three districts were then declared open on similar conditions. With every disposition to meet the views of the board, the established practitioners found a strict compliance with these conditions beset with insuperable difficulties. In the first place, they considered the scheme calculated to degrade the office and impair its utility, to render the performance of the duty more onerous and less satisfactory than heretofore, and ultimately to entail on the community greater expense. The evil of an indiscriminate allowance of orders for medical attendance where a fixed stipend is provided, an abuse as imprudent as it is unjust, they conceived might be avoided in a less complex and objectionable manner. By the mode proposed, the early treatment of disease is too frequently prevented and the detection of imposture, not the least important and difficult part of a medical officers' duty, is entrusted, they presume, to an incompetent person (the relieving officer only at that time having the power of giving orders); and the risk incurred of the aggravation and prolongation of disease, occasionally the production of a fatal issue; at least if the sick pauper suffers the parish funds are injured, and the medical officer is unfairly dealt with, because he surely is entitled to expect slight as well as severe cases, early and not protracted disease. The difficulty too of obtaining access at all times to the relieving officer, in sudden or severe illness, must materially contribute to the same result; and unless the power of granting orders for medical aid in doubtful or urgent cases be deputed to other persons (the minister, overseer and guardian of the parish) much dissatisfaction and equal disgust must accrue to all parties. These evils are not imaginary; they have already occurred in other places. This novel

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mode of payment involving so many contingencies difficult fairly to estimate and satisfactorily to provide for, created embarrassment in the estimate of a fair rate per case, distance as well as number being considered a necessary element of the computation. Besides, as the responsible medical officer for each district must make an arrangement with the board for large numbers at a corresponding abatement of the rate per case, and would be compelled to engage with other practitioners for small numbers at a proportionately higher rate per case, these embarrassments were still further augmented, while the demand of a fixed limit to the cost—a violation of the principle of the proposed scheme—certainly did not tend to their diminution. It was fair also to expect many protracted and chronic cases; a sickly season might possibly arise; epidemics were not improbable, and from any of these adverse contingencies much gratuitous labour and expense must await the medical officer. Desirous, however, as far as possible, of making arrangements with the board, and with a view to overcome the difficulties, and mitigate at least some of the evils of the plan affecting all parties, the candidates ventured to propose a moderate sum per case, as an experiment, diminishing with the increase of numbers, declared a sum as a fixed and equally moderate limit to the total cost, but claimed the insurance of about three-fourths of that sum as the least to be received. The board then were assured that under any circumstances the cost should not exceed a stated sum; and the medical officers, for the reasons above recited, and under all disadvantages, would be secure of something towards a compensation which could not otherwise be provided. An explanatory statement accompanied these proposals of a minimum against a maximum—a plan lately adopted by the Winslow board of guardians, which it was hoped would have been deemed fair and just, and not unworthy of acceptance, seeing that the duty would have been performed in each district by three or four established practitioners, for the most part long experienced in such occupation, and residing at convenient distances, who also would have had an equal interest in the satisfactory discharge of those engagements. These proposals also were rejected, and the three districts disposed of to two candidates brought down from London, with tenders in conformity with the prescribed conditions. This explanation it is hoped will furnish a sufficient justification of the course the established practitioners have pursued, and afford a satisfactory reply to the imputation of factious and unworthy motives."

15241. Did the board of guardians send any answer to that?—No answer was sent; they accepted tenders from strangers, and no further communication took place.

15242. How many strangers were introduced?—Two from London, and one a person residing out of the district.

15243. But not out of the neighbourhood?—Some miles from the town, living in Tring.

15244. Did that gentleman change his residence after he had accepted the tender?—He did not.

15245. Did he continue to attend the paupers who were placed at a considerable distance from his residence?—The district to which he was appointed was the district No. 1; he resided at Tring and attended district No. 1.

15246. What distance do you suppose any of the parishes within the district No. 1. might have been from Tring?—The greatest direct distance of this district from the medical officer was eight miles.

15247. Would it have been possible to have made arrangements with medical men residing nearer that district?—At half that distance.

15248. Mr. *Wakley*.] At what places in or near the district No. 1. did medical men reside?—Aylesbury, that is close to one extremity of the district; the extreme end of the district would be attended at half the distance.

15249. At Aston Clinton was there a medical man?—No, there was not, but the upper part of the district would have been better visited by a medical man from Aylesbury.

15250. *Chairman*.] But the other part was nearer Tring?—Yes.

15251. It ought then to have been divided into two districts?—Yes.

15252. If part of the district had been supplied with a medical officer from Tring, and the other part from Aylesbury, there would have been no objection?—No; it might have been divided into three or four districts.

15253. Where did the persons who were introduced from London reside?—One of them took the two districts Nos. 2 and 4, and resided at Aylesbury, and another took district No. 3, also resided at Quainton.

15254. Would it have been possible to have supplied the medical attendance of those districts by any person nearer than Aylesbury?—The district No. 3 could not have been supplied by medical gentlemen living nearer, but districts Nos. 2 and 4 might have been supplied from Haddenham, Thame and Brill, the two last places on the confines, but out of the district.

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15255. Mr. *Wakley.*] What was the distance of Aylesbury from the district No. 4?—Twelve miles in one direction, and 10 or 11 in another direction.

15256. *Chairman.*] That arrangement was entered into upon the first formation of the union?—Yes.

15257. Does it still subsist?—It does not; district No. 3 was disposed of to another stranger from London, who resided at Quainton, in the district: that was pretty central, it was furnishing a medical man to a village where there was none before.

15258. In that respect, that was a convenient arrangement?—For the inhabitants, but not so much as would appear, for it does not follow that the nearest medical resident is the most accessible one, because the roads are not equally practicable in many instances.

15259. Still a great part of the district No. 3, when it received medical assistance from a gentleman living at Quainton, must have been placed within a much more accessible distance of that person than they could be with regard to any body living at Aylesbury?—Not entirely so.

15260. Shipton Lee, Oving?—Yes, decidedly at that end.

15261. Those persons have been placed in a situation of much more convenient access to a medical man than they could have been to any person residing at Aylesbury?—Yes.

15262. That being the arrangement made at the formation of the union, what arrangements were made subsequently?—In the next year the gentleman who obtained the district No. 1, ceased to officiate; the board appointed another person residing at Aylesbury; then districts 2 and 4 remained still in the possession of one person.

15263. In the possession of a gentleman who came from London and who resided at Aylesbury?—Yes; the district No. 3 was disposed of to another person, not the person who had been previously in practice there; he left in ill health.

15264. Who lived in Quainton?—He was located in the same place, Quainton, but he came from a place out of the confines of the district; he was an assistant to a neighbouring practitioner.

15265. Mr. *Wakley.*] He came to reside at Quainton when he undertook the duties?—Yes; then in the second year, I think it was, or in the third year, the guardians departed from the arrangement per case, for reasons with which I am not acquainted; they did not find it so desirable as they had at first imagined, and therefore found out that our remarks were not so ill founded upon that matter; I infer so from their having departed from it. In the following year, that is the third year of the arrangement, districts 1 and 2 were held by the person from London; in district No. 3 an alteration took place, for the medical officer resided at Aylesbury, the other one having left Quainton; district No. 4 was disposed of to a stranger, who had succeeded a deceased medical man at Aylesbury.

15266. *Chairman.*] That was not a stranger brought into the district for the purpose?—No.

15267. It is not open to that class of objections?—No; the guardians then adopted another modification of their arrangements, quite in conformity with the spirit, though not with the details, of our recommendations; of inducing the person with district No. 4, to have the assistance of another for the remote parts of that district, Ludgershall, and so on, a person who resided at Brill. Then in the last year's arrangement, which is the arrangement now subsisting, the individual who had formerly districts 2 and 4, but then had districts No. 1 and 2, and resided at Aylesbury, was enjoined to have the assistance of a person residing at Tring, so that there is a still nearer approximation to our recommendations; this individual still retains district No. 2.

15268. Living at Aylesbury, and having part of district No. 1?—Yes.

15269. Is his district an inconvenient one, embracing a part of No. 1, and district No. 2?—District No. 2 is most conveniently situated for Aylesbury.

15270. And so would part of district No. 1, would it not?—Yes, it would; district No. 3 is still retained by the same individual living at Aylesbury; district No. 4 is still held by the individual residing at Aylesbury, with the

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exception of that part held by the individual residing at Brill; so that there has been an amelioration in the arrangements, certainly, but not to the extent that we had formerly proposed; we, therefore, imagine that the guardians have had experience to see that our representations were well founded.

15271. They have departed from the system per case, and have adopted a system, as regards localities, more in conformity with that which you had suggested?—Yes.

15272. Mr. *Wakley*.] What will the present medical officers receive less than the sum you offered to execute the duty for in the names of the resident medical practitioners?—I think that the maximum first proposed by the medical practitioners would have been about 45*l*. more than the medical officers now receive as fixed salary; it was 595*l*. for the four districts, with the advantage of having 16 medical officers to do the duty.

15273. *Chairman*.] That proposal being made by the medical gentlemen practising within the union?—Yes.

15274. Where did they reside?—They resided at Aylesbury, Haddenham, Winslow, Tring, at Brill, at Bicester, which are at the outskirts of the union; they were 16 who had been engaged in the parochial practice of the union prior to its formation.

15275. Then it does not appear, prior to the formation of the union, that the medical practitioners were strictly resident in the union, except in the town of Aylesbury?—No.

15276. Mr. *Wakley*.] How many of the practitioners who now attend the union do not reside in Aylesbury?—Two; one at Brill and one at Tring.

15277. But the engagement or contract is not made with the practitioner at Tring?—No.

15278. Is there a sub-contract made by the medical officer who has taken the contract with the medical man at Tring?—No contract; it is a private engagement between the parties, at the suggestion of the board of guardians.

15279. In what way do you deem the practitioner at Tring to be responsible for the performance of his duties?—I conceive that there is no practical responsibility.

15280. *Chairman*.] Except that which relates to his general character and reputation?—Nothing more.

15281. Mr. *Wakley*.] If there were negligence on his part, you conceive that he is under no responsibility to the board of guardians?—I do not conceive that he is.

15282. *Chairman*.] Then the gentleman who resides at Aylesbury, making a private arrangement with the medical man at Tring, would be responsible for any neglect on the part of that gentleman?—That was a question which I put to the chairman of the board; as, in the first instance, I wished to know the amount of responsibility; "of course," he said, "he would be personally responsible;" my remark to the medical men was, "Any one of you may appoint me as your substitute, but I will not employ any of you as my substitute; I do not hold it possible to be responsible for any other man in his practice, nor for me to hold him under control."

15283. If the medical gentleman is a man of respectability, resident in a more convenient position for the attendance upon the poor, should you see any objection to that arrangement?—I think that every person practising among the poor should be held individually responsible.

15284. Mr. *Wakley*.] Then a great number of the recommendations which the resident practitioners made to the guardians, when the union was first formed, have since been adopted by them?—Imperfectly; some more or less than others.

15285. But many of them have been adopted?—Yes.

15286. Still all the practitioners who were resident before the union was formed are now excluded from office?—All but two; one at Aylesbury, one at Brill.

15287. Have any evil consequences arisen in consequence of the arrangements that were made?—Yes, certainly.

15288. Could you state them?—In the districts where there was but one medical officer, some of the poor are living at a distance of 12 miles; cases of fever occurred which could not properly be visited, and elsewhere accidents occurred which could not be properly attended to; in my capacity as surgeon of the hospital, I have

personally

personally seen such cases; in fact, I should describe them as acute cases, or severe cases of illness, that could not get proper attendance.

15289. By whom were the arrangements in the union superintended?—Mr. Gilbert was the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner then; Mr. Adey is now.

15290. Still all was done with the sanction and approbation of the guardians?—Yes.

15291. The Commissioners state, in the Second Report, "It would appear that the local knowledge of the guardians has proved that they are the most competent judges upon the subject;" have you found that to be the case?—I have not; but I think, in justice to the guardians, I ought to state that, if they had not been under the influence of Mr. Gilbert's crotchets, they would have made much better arrangements; which they have done since he left.

15292. Had you yourself any personal conversation with Mr. Gilbert upon the subject?—I had not; my conversation was principally with the chairman of the board of guardians.

15293. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether Mr. Gilbert had any personal communication with the medical men of the district?—He had not; he fancied, in the first formation of the union, that one medical man could do the duty of the whole union; he did not make that as an official communication, but he made it to a guardian privately, who told him no such thing could take place; I had this from a person in communication with him.

15294. Mr. *Wakley.*] You have no doubt that he expressed that opinion?—Not the slightest.

15295. What is the extreme length of the union?—The extreme length, in one direction, is 23 miles, and in the other direction 15.

15296. Is the union of a very irregular form?—Very irregular.

15297. Do you conceive that it has assumed the best form which circumstances might have admitted of in that neighbourhood?—The worst that could possibly be devised.

15298. Did you hear any reason stated by the guardians why it had assumed this shape?—None whatever; I know that many of them objected to it.

15299. Did you hear what the reasons were which were stated by Mr. Gilbert for making the union in such a form?—I never heard.

15300. What is the general topography of the union?—It is principally situated in the Vale of Aylesbury, which consists of a damp, clayey, retentive soil, subject to inundations in wet seasons; I should describe it as a cold, humid atmosphere, and a wet, retentive soil.

15301. What are the habits and mode of life of the working population of the union?—Principally agricultural; the females, a great many of them, are occupied in the domestic manufacture of lace; their occupations are, consequently, sedentary.

15302. What are the wages of the agricultural labourers?—They vary a good deal in different parishes; the average is from 8*s.* to 9*s.*; I have heard, within this last week, of wages in one parish being 6*s.* a week at (Ludgershall), and they are frequently 7*s.* in the neighbourhood of Aylesbury; 7*s.* and 8*s.* in the winter; in other parishes they are 9*s.*; and in one parish I know, 10*s.*; in the parish of Aylesbury I know an individual who pays his labourers 11*s.*; a very considerate man.

15303. Do you suppose that to be generally the case, that the wages are 6*s.*, or is that an individual case?—I was informed by a guardian, not more than a week ago, that in the parish of Ludgershall wages are 6*s.*; but whether it is universal, I do not know.

15304. Does your practice extend to that parish?—It does not.

15305. What should you say was the condition of the working people generally, where your own practice extends, speaking of the circumstances of themselves and their families?—Their circumstances are bad, and their physical condition is bad; their intellectual endowments are small; they are a poor, sickly race of beings, which is partly attributable to the soil, and partly to their insufficient diet and their general depressed physical condition from their low rate of wages.

15306. *Chairman.*] Are they sickly?—I consider that they are, for I had practised, before I went there, in London, and I was surprised at the contrast in their physical condition.

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15307. Are they liable to any particular class of diseases?—They are scrofula I find very prevalent, and fevers of an intermitting, remitting and typhoid character.

15308. Are those diseases attributable to the soil?—I should say, attributable to the soil, but greatly increased by the insufficient diet which, as a class, they are able to procure.

15309. What is the diet?—Bread, and very little animal food, and what they have of that is bacon.

15310. Do many of them keep pigs?—Very few.

15311. Mr. *Liddell.*] Those diseases are occasioned by their depressed physical condition, are they not?—They are not occasioned by that, because the origin of them is local; but the diseases are more prevalent among the poor, because of their depressed physical condition.

15312. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is potato an article of diet among the poor?—Potato is an article of diet.

15313. Do they procure potatoes to any extent?—Potatoes and bread.

15314. Mr. *Wakley.*] Are they a frugal and prudent population?—They are compelled to be frugal; their means are very limited; I do not consider them intemperate, by any means.

15315. Is there any distinction made between the wages of the married man and the single?—Not now.

15316. Used there to be?—Yes; we were in fact a bad specimen of the evils of the old law; the new law, as regards us, was needed as much for the rate-payers as the receivers of the rates.

15317. *Chairman.*] Do you think that their physical condition is improved or deteriorated since the new law?—I do not think it is improved with them as a mass, I am sorry to say, although I had hoped that it would.

15318. Do you think that it is worse?—Yes, I think so; I have taken some pains to inquire, and I think I have inquired at the right sources; namely, of those who supply articles of necessity to the poor, and they assure me that the people are more in their debt, and that those who do pay cannot purchase so much; the poor people tell me that they have not the same amount of food; I speak of course of those who have families.

15319. Mr. *Wakley.*] Your own practice is very extensive, as a medical practitioner, in Buckinghamshire?—It is; but of course I have not that personal communication with the poor that I had at the early period of my practice, and my intercourse with the poor is very little as compared with what it was.

15320. But you speak from your own observation?—Yes.

15321. *Chairman.*] To what do you attribute this diminished demand over the necessaries of life?—The parents tell me that they cannot get employment for their sons, and that many of them do not get sufficient employment, and that their income upon the whole of their annual receipts is diminished.

15322. Those receipts were formerly composed partly of the parish allowances?—Yes.

15323. Were allowances made in that part of the country with reference to the number of the families?—Yes.

15324. Have those allowances been uniformly withdrawn?—Yes.

15325. Do you know whether that has been done at the discretion of the board of guardians, or whether any thing like the peremptory rule has been issued to the unions in your neighbourhood?—I do not believe that the peremptory rule has been introduced, because the guardians will take an able-bodied labourer into the house and relieve his wife and children at home, and they will take some of the children into the house.

15326. Would they do that, but in extreme cases, where they observed the family to be in distress?—Yes, where the father is unemployed.

15327. Mr. *Liddell.*] Are you aware whether any extent of saving has been effected in the sum levied for the relief of the poor?—I have not the particulars, but I think 50 per cent. of saving has taken place in the union; the apparent saving, I imagine, contrasted with the whole of the rates; there was some delusion formerly in reference to the appropriation of the rates; the appropriation is now limited and defined, and therefore it appears to be more than 50 per cent.; that is for the county in which I reside.

15328. Is the saving in the rates as considerable as 50 per cent. in the district of which you have been speaking?—Yes.

15329. You

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15329. You have stated that employment is difficult to be obtained by the labourers?—It certainly is; after harvest, for instance.

15330. If 50 per cent. has been saved to the rate-payers, might it not be reasonable to expect that additional means would be afforded by them of employment to the labouring classes?—I should presume, that as the labour fund was increased, more labour might be found.

15331. How do you explain those two facts, the saving that has been effected in the rates, combined with the want of employment among the labouring classes?—Probably many of the employers of labourers may have found a necessity for appropriating this saved fund to other purposes, or probably they may be deficient in intelligence, in not knowing how usefully to employ that saved fund; or probably they may be deficient in enterprise and skill in employing that capital which they have so saved; these seem to me to be the only modes of accounting for it.

15332. Are the districts to which you allude purely agricultural?—They are; I must add, that a great part of the district in which I reside is grass-land, the Vale of Aylesbury, principally.

15333. Is it in a state of high cultivation?—Certainly not; it is in a better state than it was when I first went into it, but not in the best state of cultivation.

15334. Have you observed any tendency to an improvement upon the soil since the introduction of the new Act?—Improvement was taking place previous to the introduction of the Act; but I do not know that on an extensive scale it has to any great extent since.

15335. Do you consider that if those improvements were made upon the land, employment might be found for all the labourers?—I am assured by those who are judges, that the whole of the labourers might be employed profitably.

15336. If the whole of the labourers might be employed profitably, and a saving of 50 per cent. has taken place, how is it that that labour has not been employed?—I am afraid that there is a parsimoniousness in those who might employ that fund; but I should think it might be attributable to a want of enterprise, and to habits not dictated by intelligence, and I expect that there is not that skill which is frequently met with in other districts.

15337. Have rents been raised in your neighbourhood?—In some few instances; and I have heard that such a thing is expected as a matter of course.

15338. Have greater deposits been made in the savings banks?—I am not able to speak to that.

15339. What then, do you think, has become of the saved fund?—It is retained by individuals, or it may be employed to relieve them from incumbrances, or it may be hoarded up, they conceiving that is the best mode of applying it.

15340. Do you conceive that in any case the money is now hoarded, when it may be put into the savings bank, at a certain rate of interest?—I am not aware that employers do invest their money in savings banks; I should think, generally, that it is not hoarded, but that there was an outlet for it already prepared.

15341. Mr. *Miles.*] As I understand you, your observation with regard to persons not having the same means as formerly, relates more to persons with large families, the members of whose families are not of a sufficient age to be employed, than to any other class of labouring population?—More particularly to them.

15342. The young men now have wages equal to the wages of the married men, which they had not previously?—Yes.

15343. Does not that addition come from the pockets of the employers of labour, which was before taken either from the rate or came not to the labourer at all?—The money so furnished from the parish would be regular, the payments made now are not regular; they are of course occasional; they have not that regular employment, which would exhaust such a fund; there is not that distinction made now with regard to the circumstances of a man, whether he is married or not, but there are many single men who find it very difficult to get employment, except they work at very low wages, and they cannot get constant work, and their parents assure me, that they are obliged frequently to keep them, and therefore they are still poor, being obliged to maintain the younger members of their families.

15344. Am I to understand by your answer, that the condition of the unmarried labourer is better than it was before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—When he can get constant employment.

15345. What is the condition of the aged, as compared with the time before

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the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I have made that inquiry of gentlemen, and the reply which I have obtained, and which I believe is correct, is that it is not worse.

15346. What is the condition of men unburdened with families?—I do not believe, if they were steady men and were constantly employed before, that it is better.

15347. Still, of the four classes which you have mentioned, the only persons whose condition has deteriorated are those with large families?—I do not know that I should say that absolutely, because the single men not being in constant employment; perhaps the aggregate of their earnings, compared with their receipts formerly, while idling away their time on the roads, might not be greater in many instances.

15348. Do you think their moral condition is improved?—In that respect certainly, inasmuch as what wages they now get are wages for labour.

15349. *Chairman.*] You said that your district was very much an illustration of the effects of the former system?—Yes; all the vices of the former system were perpetrated in the most exalted degree.

15350. Be so good as to describe them generally?—Paying money out of the rates and hiring paupers out of the rates to do the labour of individuals, which ought to have been paid for properly.

15351. What were the evils which followed from that?—That men became indifferent to labour at all; they considered themselves imperfectly compensated for their labour, and were in a state of considerable insubordination.

15352. Was it that the men were quite capable of obtaining relief from the parish, without the condition of labour being annexed to it?—Yes.

15353. Did that produce disorder?—That, and a want of regular employment.

15354. Do you think that those evils have been checked by the new law?—Yes; I think in some parishes there is a fair amount of labour, and tolerably well paid; in others that is not so.

15355. Upon the whole, do you imagine that the amount of labour has increased since the new law?—I should find it difficult to speak positively upon that point: in some parishes the labourers are pretty well employed, and at pretty good wages; but in others there is an insufficiency of labour and the wages are low.

15356. What has become of that mass of labourers who were idling away their time on the roads?—They are now employed, but irregularly employed.

15357. Still a portion of that class of persons are now employed regularly upon farms?—Yes, or out of the union.

15358. To that extent the amount of labour has increased?—To that extent.

15359. Mr. *Wakley.*] Has there not been a great amount of labour on the rail-roads?—Yes; some have gone to the rail-road, but returned content to receive the lower wages for working on the farms rather than the higher wages paid on the rail-road, with all the inconveniences of working on the rail-road.

15360. Some still remain on the rail-road?—Yes, some; but not many.

15361. Mr. *Fielden.*] In what union is the parish situated where the wages you say are 6*s.* a week?—Ludgershall, in the Aylesbury Union.

15362. In the Aylesbury Union the decrease in the rates in the return which appears in the Commissioners' Third Report is stated to be 59 per cent.; that diminution of rates has been a considerable drawback upon the income of the poor, has it not?—I should infer that necessarily.

15363. And if that drawback on their income has not been made up by increased employment and increased wages, would there not be greater suffering now than there was before the passing of the Poor Law?—Certainly, so far as that.

15364. Do you know what the wages were in the parish where they now pay 6*s.* before the new law was passed?—I do not know what they were.

15365. Did you ever hear of lower wages than 6*s.* for able-bodied men before the passing of the new law?—I have heard of 4*s.* 6*d.* on the roads for single men.

15366. Was that paid by the parish?—Yes.

15367. But on the farms have you heard of lower wages than 6*s.* to able-bodied men?—No.

15368. Mr. *Wakley.*] Will you state the principal diseases which generally occur in your district?—The acute diseases are fevers; intermitting, remitting and continued, and affections of the mucous membranes; they are very prevalent; often

often epidemic to a great extent, and they decidedly have a local origin in the dampness and retentive character of the soil, and consequent humidity of the atmosphere.

15369. Are those diseases which you mention prevalent?—I speak of them as the acute diseases most commonly prevalent among the poorer classes.

15370. You do not find that they are so prevalent among the wealthier classes?—They are not; the poor furnish the great majority of those cases; the chronic diseases are scrofula, very prevalent indeed, all the nervous diseases, indigestion, and other affections of the stomach to a very great extent, very strikingly so.

15371. Are you acquainted with any other rural district?—I am not intimately acquainted with any other; I lived formerly in London; I am a native of the neighbourhood of London, and the change in the appearance of the physical condition of the people, and the character of their ailments, were forcibly impressed upon my attention when I first went into the district; and from my continued observation, I still think it very remarkable, and I believe it is differently situated from many of the adjoining districts in point of locality and occupation.

15372. Should you state, from your own experience and observation, that the diseases you have mentioned prevail to a great extent?—Yes.

15373. What kind of medical attendance do such cases require?—The acute class of cases require very prompt and frequently-repeated attentions; being fevers, of course they require careful watching, and very frequently protracted attention; I have had occasion to attend fever cases for two or three months together, sometimes for six months, in one village, where fever more particularly prevails; I have been compelled to go daily for two months to visit the paupers who were ill, and to spend five or six hours in the village, and at the same season, for another month or two, every other day, according to my notions of the necessity of attention; ague is very prevalent also.

15374. Then the attendance which persons so situated must require is of a very close and severe kind?—Of a very close and severe kind, and of a very costly description.

15375. Can the independent labourers procure such assistance?—Not of their own means, to any extent, certainly.

15376. Then in periods of disease you conceive that their condition is such, that generally they would be under the necessity of applying for orders for medical relief?—They must; and I do say, in justice to the guardians, that they are by no means niggard in their furnishing of orders.

15377. But it is not the per-case system?—No, it is not.

15378. Would any increase in the amount of orders which they might grant add to the remuneration which they would have to pay to the medical practitioner?—No; it is a cheap provision.

15379. Do you think that the poor, as a class, require as much medical attendance as the wealthier classes of society?—My own opinion is that they require more; first, their diseases (and I speak more particularly in reference to those which I have mentioned) are more severe and prolonged; and, secondly, they have less intelligence, and fewer accessory agents towards their cure.

15380. Do you conceive that the continuance of their diseases is very often prolonged, in consequence of their being unable to procure that nourishing diet which is so essential to recovery?—Most certainly; and I have found it sometimes consistent with policy and economy, as well as in unison with my own feelings, to furnish that assistance out of my own pocket: on one occasion I attended a parish in which an epidemic prevailed, and it cost me 10*l.* to furnish wine and beef-tea for the patients, because I was anxious to get them well as soon as I could; I was not compelled to do it; but the cases were so numerous and so distressing at the time, that I could not withhold that assistance.

15381. Those articles were not found for them?—No; and many of the parties might perhaps have been refused relief in consequence of their circumstances.

15382. Is it not often extremely distressing and harassing to the medical man to observe the state of destitution in which the labourers are found when they are suffering under disease?—I have found it so, so much so, that I would not myself engage again extensively in parish practice; I think that a small extent of parochial practice is abundantly sufficient for every man upon those grounds.

15383. From having so frequently witnessed the state of destitution and suf-

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fering in which the labouring men are found in a state of disease, can you conceive that a more important duty can devolve upon the guardians than the appointment of the medical officers?—I cannot; and I think that the individuals who would do it well, must be singularly constituted.

15384. Then it is obvious that the poor must mainly depend upon the humanity and skill and integrity of the medical attendant, in cases of disease?—Undoubtedly.

15385. Mr. *Liddell.*] How was that attendance provided before the formation of the union?—By separate parishes; the mode was by contract or tender.

15386. *Chairman.*] Though by separate parishes, one medical man took several parishes occasionally?—Just as it happened, according to his connexion with the inhabitants.

15387. Do you think, according to your experience, generally speaking, that such arrangements were satisfactory?—I believe they were, and I am sure they were, previous to that unfortunate competition which arose among medical men, in which low tenders were obtained, and then of course the duties were not performed with the same satisfaction.

15388. You apply that to the competition which existed prior to the introduction of the new law?—Yes, to a very sad extent.

15389. Mr. *Wakley.*] The system of contract, by tender, was introduced before the new law?—Yes.

15390. Do you not conceive that such a practice is very humiliating and degrading to medical men?—I feel ashamed of myself, when I think of the degradation to which we have subjected ourselves, because we are all liable to the imputation, and none more than myself; but there was no following practice of any kind without submitting to those degrading proceedings.

15391. Mr. *Liddell.*] Who were the contracting parties before the formation of the union in your neighbourhood?—The overseers.

15392. The overseers and select vestry?—The select vestry existed only in some of the parishes; the overseers were the parties generally; the overseers and select vestry, I might say.

15393. Comparing the two contracting parties now and before the formation of the board of guardians, to which would you give the preference, the board of guardians or the overseers under the old system?—I think, under the old system, the overseers and the vestries would have managed the matter better than the board of guardians do now, if it had not been for the degrading competition of medical men; I think the medical men were more to blame than the parochial authorities.

15394. Why do you think that the parochial authorities, before the passing of the Poor Law, were more qualified to manage these matters well than the board of guardians since?—I think they knew better the wants and requirements of the poor under the several circumstances of each parish.

15395. That information was more likely to be obtained correctly within a limited distance, than over the wide extent of the unions from which the guardians are now selected?—I think so.

15396. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you consider that there are advantages in a small district, especially in enabling the medical man to stimulate private charity more effectually than he can do in a large one?—I do; and I think the medical attendant of the poor being the attendant upon the rich, has it frequently in his power to assist the sick poor from private resources; I have frequently had that opportunity myself, and have been glad to avail myself of it; the rich are ready to inquire of him what can be done for the poor.

15397. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is it not your opinion that the attendant upon the gentry of the neighbourhood should be the attendant upon the poor?—Yes, I think it is for the interest of all parties, and certainly for the interest of the rate-payers.

15398. You think it calculated to promote a good feeling between the rich and the poor?—Yes.

15399. And to lead to a ready means of communication between the necessitous poor, and the supply of their wants by their opulent neighbours?—Yes; I think the medical attendant of the poor should be the medical attendant of the rich for the reasons just stated.

15400. *Chairman.*] Is he not generally so?—Not always so.

15401. Are those gentlemen who live at Tring and Aylesbury, in practice in the

the neighbourhood?—Those who came on speculation from a distance, expected, I presume, to obtain a private practice.

15402. But what is practically the case as regards the medical gentleman at Tring, and the other at Aylesbury?—Their practice is among the rich as well as poor.

15403. Are there any medical men in your neighbourhood who do not practise among that class of society?—Of course, the strangers who were introduced do not.

15404. Are there any now in your neighbourhood practising exclusively among the poor?—Yes; and in the Leighton Union there is an individual engaged to attend exclusively on the poor; he is prohibited from private practice.

15405. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do not the rich naturally resort to the best medical advice in the neighbourhood?—What they conceive the best.

15406. Has not the practice of tenders a tendency to get a lower class of medical practitioners to practise among the poor?—It has had a most mischievous effect in that way.

15407. From those two causes, is it likely that a different class of medical attendants should be in communication with the rich, from those who are in communication with the poor?—It is not only likely, but I think certain.

15408. Mr. *Wakley.*] You stated that the practitioner of Leighton Buzzard confined his practice exclusively to the poor; had he been resident there?—No, he was invited there; the person who now holds the office in the Leighton Union was assistant to a gentleman residing at Tring; he succeeded an individual who came a perfect stranger to the place, and who left because he could not get private practice.

15409. What is the salary of that gentleman?—Rather more than 200*l.* a year; he resides in the workhouse and furnishes the drugs.

15410. What is the size of the union?—It has a workhouse; it consists of 15 parishes; population 11,824; area, in square miles, 55; distance from the surgeon's residence, north three miles, south eight miles, east six miles, west four miles; the remuneration is stated as 200*l.*; but I think I have understood that it has been raised since the last surgeon was appointed; Mr. Gardiner's name is put down here, so that that is the return of the late medical officer; (I think now it is 210*l.*); the number of cases constantly under his care 100; total number of cases in the year, 1,845; the deaths are not mentioned.

15411. Then the Committee are to understand, that you consider that any mode of election, which would have the effect of injuring the character of the medical practitioner, lessening his respectability, or lowering his moral feelings, must, ultimately, have a bad operation upon the interests of the poor?—A very bad operation indeed, upon the welfare of the poor in sickness.

15412. And you also consider, that under the system of tender, both in the old system and in the present system, that effect was often produced?—I have no doubt of it.

15413. Do you think that the poor, generally, are insensible to the advantages of a kind and close attention in cases of sickness?—I have found them very far from it, always; indeed the greatest satisfaction I have ever had in the performance of my duty, has been with the poor, from the manner in which they have received it; they appeared to appreciate it.

15414. Do you ever find so much gratitude evinced by any class of society as on the part of the poor?—Indeed I do not.

15415. With reference to the control of medical practitioners in the unions, would you have them individually responsible to the authorities?—I certainly would, because I do not see how any other responsibility can have any practical result.

15416. You consider that any arrangements which do not produce individual responsibility, must be defective?—Decidedly so.

15417. What are your chief objections to contracts by tender?—The chief objections are: that the competition, generally speaking, is an unfair one, and in the next place, that it is impossible for those who encourage it to form an estimate of the completion of the contract; there is frequently a competition between persons of very dissimilar attainments, knowledge and experience; and, moreover, it is frequently the case, that those who most wish for the contract, are the least able to perform it. I believe, too, that the pecuniary competition for medical

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services, is of a very questionable character. I conceive that the analogy will not subsist between that and other competition, because, you cannot discover whether the contract is performed, and much must be left to the integrity and humanity of the individual; which you cannot put into a contract.

15418. The Committee are to understand that you are not opposed to a fair competition?—No; a competition of character and skill; but not to be estimated in the way that a pecuniary contract is.

15419. You do not approve of the existence of a combination, which would have the effect of preventing the guardians from selecting their officers fairly from amongst a number?—Certainly not.

15420. But you do consider that the character and standing that a man has in his profession, and his general experience, his reputation for humanity, and his skill should be taken into account more than the mere pecuniary salary?—I do; I think that is every thing.

15421. You have very little to say in favour of the selection of medical men under the old system?—I can say nothing in favour of it.

15422. You do not consider that the duties were well performed under the old system?—I think that they were performed very much better than from the nature of the competition that subsisted any one could have a reasonable right to expect, but infinitely short of what they might and ought to have been.

15423. If the medical officer under the existing system be dissatisfied with his stipend, do you consider that any vigilance which may be exercised in examining into the mode in which he may discharge his duty could have the effect of making him render full justice to his patients?—While I know that it is possible ostensibly to perform the duties, and really to neglect them, I do not see how it can be insured.

15424. You consider then that it is of the first importance that the medical officer should be satisfied with his position?—I think that dissatisfaction on the part of the medical officer is not very likely to ensure the performance of the duty; that he has so many opportunities of neglecting it or of improperly doing it, that it would be dangerous to produce dissatisfaction in his mind.

15425. Should you state, as a practitioner of long standing in the profession, that it is in the power of the practitioner to neglect his duties to a very great extent, perhaps produce a prolongation of suffering, and very frequently loss of life, without his delinquencies being detected by unprofessional observers?—I know that it is, and I know that it has been done.

15426. Can you state instances in which it has been done?—I could state instances of that nature.

15427. Do you object to the weekly returns which medical officers are called upon to make?—By no means; to a certain extent it is useful.

15428. It may show at any rate whether they have been attentive or not?—It shows the alleged attendances.

15429. But you think that sometimes insertions of attendances are made when in reality the visits have not been paid?—I know that that has been the fact in some cases.

15430. *Chairman.*] Had those entries been made by the medical officers themselves?—Yes.

15431. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you think it desirable to offer reasonable motives to medical men of high character and experience, to induce them to undertake the management of the poor in unions?—For the reasons I have before mentioned, I do think it very desirable to engage the services of men of reputation, of experience and standing in the neighbourhood, upon fair and reasonable considerations.

15432. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is not the system of tender, as giving a representation that no other view is to be taken of the subject but a pecuniary one, calculated to prevent men of high character from offering their services?—It is very much calculated to deter them.

15433. And calculated to destroy that self-esteem which you wish to see in the profession?—Yes.

15434. *Chairman.*] The system of tender prevailed generally in the district before the introduction of the law?—It did so.

15435. Had it the effect of preventing respectable practitioners in the neighbourhood from tendering their services for the medical attendance of the different parishes?—If I speak of my own neighbourhood, to a certain extent it did, but

but not to the extent that it ought to have done, or that it might have done; it was submitted to reluctantly; the medical men found themselves compelled to do it, or they must have endangered the preservation of their private practice; it was a matter of necessity with them, not of choice.

15436. In point of fact, did the respectable practitioners of the neighbourhood engage to attend parishes on tender?—Yes; and they felt most degraded by it.

15437. Did they ever state that publicly?—Several times; and I myself have been successful in inducing them to depart from that practice.

15438. Were you ever the medical attendant upon any of the poor of any parish in your neighbourhood?—I have had a good deal of parochial practice in the former part of my life.

15439. Did you ever yourself make tenders, and enter into contracts for parishes?—In several cases.

15440. Did you ever refuse to tender your services?—I have often; I did not personally at the formation of the Union; I had no occasion to do so; my only wish was to assist others in the performance of their duties under a totally different plan.

15441. Your own private practice is too extensive to make it worth your while?—I should not be averse to a moderate share of parochial practice, because I think it desirable for a person who is practising amongst the higher classes to be aware of the epidemics that are prevailing among the poor; it is valuable to the poor, it is useful to himself, and advantageous to the community.

15442. What opinion have you formed as to the present mode of obtaining orders for medical attendance upon the poor?—The opinion that I have formed is, that greater facilities to the poor obtaining medical assistance should be offered than now exist, though I believe, in the union in which I reside, more facilities are offered than exist in many unions; for instance, the medical officers often attend the poor at once, without an order, and the various officers have instructions to afford relief. At the commencement of the union, the duties were not well known by the different officers, evils arose, certainly, then, but do not so frequently occur now, except on the part of the poor, who are ignorant of the way in which they might obtain medical assistance.

15443. Do you believe that practically, at the present time, difficulty is felt in obtaining orders?—Not generally.

15444. Mr. *Wakley*.] Having gone through what you conceive to be the evils and imperfections of the present system, what suggestions would you make to the Committee for an improved plan?—I think I need not take up much time in alluding to that, for they are based entirely upon the principles which have been previously mentioned by Mr. Rumsey as those which seem to meet with the approbation of a large class of the profession, particularly those attached to the Provincial Medical Association; and they consist, of course, of an improvement in the mode of appointing medical officers; in the mode of appointing their duties; in the mode of remunerating them; in the mode of their general management. With respect to the appointment of them, I cannot help thinking that the parochial appointment has many advantages in it, or in other words, that the medical appointment should be to a parochial rather than to a district office; still I would not pertinaciously adhere to that, if the districts were very small and very conveniently arranged; but, inasmuch as parochial practice should, to practitioners of standing and experience, be as much as possible, and no doubt will be, associated with private practice, I think parochial appointments are preferable on that score; small districts would be equivalent, but I think the large districts decidedly subversive of the objects of medical attendance, and calculated to deter many medical men; it has deterred myself and others from undertaking the duty at all; it is impossible, we are sure, from our knowledge of parochial duties, to undertake the duties of a district, and why should we saddle ourselves with a duty which we know we cannot perform? strangers who know nothing of it, recklessly run into difficulties.

15445. In the hope of beating out for themselves a practice among the opulent?—Yes, I suppose so; but they sin in ignorance, and they imitate the bad practices of their predecessors.

15446. Mr. *Langdale*.] Will you give the Committee some idea of the size of the districts which you recommend?—I think it is very difficult to determine what should be the general size; it must depend very much upon the locality.

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15447. As far as your experience goes, what size should you recommend?—I think that it is impossible to attend well to patients beyond the distance of six miles, particularly poor patients.

15448. Of course that would depend very much upon the population of the district?—It would depend very much upon the population, but distance must always form a very important element in the consideration of the arrangement, as well as the population, because it is impossible to attend to acute cases at a great distance among poor persons.

15449. Then in your union do you mean to say that you might extend the district to six miles from any one point?—It might be extended to six miles, and, indeed, must be, in our union, but there is no need of extending it beyond six or seven miles.

15450. *Chairman.*] I observe in an instructional letter which has been addressed to various boards of guardians by the Commissioners, dated the 31st of January 1837, this passage, to which I shall be glad to call your attention; "It has been found that an active relieving officer may attend to the average number of paupers in more than eight rural parishes, containing a population of between 5,000 and 6,000 inhabitants, or to the average of pauperism existing in a town population of from 10,000 to 15,000." That is the observation that the Commissioners apply to the duty of a relieving officer; in your opinion, would that amount of population, or any thing approaching to that, be a good average population for a medical district?—The amount of population would be one consideration; in a dense population, 10,000 is quite enough in a closely arranged district; a town population of 10,000 might be very well managed by one medical man; 15,000 is too great an extent.

15451. And a country population of 5,000 or 6,000?—It would of course depend very much upon the distance, that is every thing; a population of 5,000 may be attended with very great facility at the distance of three miles, but when they are scattered and double that distance, I think it is impossible to attend them.

15452. Mr. *Wakley.*] If the rate-payers be not empowered to re-elect the medical officer, as under the old system, what other mode would you suggest should be adopted with regard to their appointment?—There seems to be no other left then than the appointment by the board of guardians; of course it would be practicable to appoint them in some other way, but that I suppose would be looked upon as the next step; of course I hardly need mention the entire abolition of the contract and tender system, as a part of the alteration which I would suggest in the appointment of the medical men.

15453. Must there not be some contract between the parties?—The appointment by tender I speak of.

15454. But you cannot suppose that any case could exist in which a contract could be dispensed with altogether?—If it were dispensed with the difficulties of coming to a conclusion would be removed; the difficulty consists in applying a system which has inherent evils to a useful purpose; the contract system has evidently inherent evils, which it is impossible wholly to remove; at the same time, the difficulty now is in doing without it; there was no difficulty formerly, 25 years ago, in my neighbourhood: there were no contracts and no tenders, and the parochial practice was then paid for better than it is now.

15455. *Chairman.*] What was the agreement between the parish and the medical man?—The overseer for the time being appointed the medical man.

15456. There must have been some understanding as to what were that gentleman's duties?—He was to attend the paupers who had orders, or who applied to him; and there were specific charges, and the amount was rather more than it is now; at the same time, pauperism was much less, and his practice infinitely less than it is now.

15457. Mr. *Wakley.*] It was an understanding that if parties were sick the orders for attendance should be given to them?—Very frequently there were no orders at all; they were known by the medical man; moderate charges were made for journies and medicine, in fact regular bills; and the parties perfectly satisfied at that time; the dissatisfaction arose from two causes, the difficulties under which agriculture laboured, and the increase of pauperism; those two difficulties created the necessity for a change to the new system.

15458. Mr. *Langdale.*] What you mean by no contract is, that a charge was regularly made by the medical man, according to the attendances and the medicines?—

cines?—Yes, it was contingent upon the amount of duty, and that was the case in many instances, immediately previous to the formation of the unions in several parishes about me.

15459. *Chairman.*] In other parishes there existed a contract?—Yes; because the expenses increased, in consequence of an increase of pauperism and the diminished means of providing for it.

15460. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do the suggestions which you make at all affect the mode of appointing those officers?—They affect the mode of appointing them, as the greater the distance the medical officer would be from his duty, the greater would be the expense, and therefore I should decrease the amount of remuneration by the appointment of the nearest and best qualified medical attendant.

15461. You heard the recommendation of Mr. Rumsey with regard to the appointment of a medical guardian or assessor on the part of the medical practitioners of the union, to act with an individual similarly appointed, and of similar powers, to be chosen by the guardians?—Yes; I think that what I should call a medical referee should be chosen out of the body of medical practitioners, as the organ of communication with the guardians, first to agree upon the districts, if parochial appointments were not made, and secondly to discuss the adaptation or the modification of a scale of payments to the peculiarities of the locality; for instance, in my locality, I conceive just reason has been shown that it must be more expensive, first, from the distance, secondly, from the peculiarity of the topography, as well as the peculiarity of the physical condition of the poor; the expense of medical attendance must be greater than in other districts of more salubrious character.

15462. What power would you give to the medical referee?—The power would be given by the medical men who elected him; he would negociate with the individual deputed by the guardians, say the chairman of the guardians, or the auditor, to adapt the scale to the locality; the scale having been previously determined upon by authority.

15463. The scale having been determined without his intervention?—Yes, he would have to adapt it to the peculiarity of the locality, which he must be acquainted with.

15464. By communication with the medical men?—Yes.

15465. *Chairman.*] Would you make his consent indispensable to the validity of any arrangement?—I can conceive it possible that the medical men should not come to any arrangement about it, and that they should not appoint any referee; then I should leave it to the guardians to determine the matter. I think the medical men would appoint an individual.

15466. If they appointed an individual, would you make the consent of the referee indispensable to the validity of the medical arrangements of the union?—That would be better settled by referring it to another authority, as arbitrator, a higher authority connected with the Poor Law Commissioners.

15467. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you, then, approve of the suggestion that was made by Mr. Rumsey, of appointing a medical commissioner?—Indeed I do; I cannot see how the medical affairs of the Poor Law, in its present state, can be well conducted without medical knowledge and medical control.

15468. Then in case there should be an irreconcileable dispute, or difference of opinion between the two referees, you would get rid of their authority on the occasion entirely by appealing to the higher authority connected with the Commissioners?—I see no other alternative; that must be done.

15469. Do you believe that the medical affairs of the country, connected with the unions, can be amicably or satisfactorily settled without the interposition of some medical authority?—I do not, indeed.

15470. *Chairman.*] What is the difference in that respect, since the introduction of the new law?—We have now corporate bodies to deal with, and I believe it is well known that "corporate bodies have no souls;" perhaps it is a trite and rude expression. It is observed by Lord Bathurst, in a letter to Swift, that "all corporations of men are perpetually doing injustice to individuals. I have often reflected (from what cause it arises I know not) that though the majority of a society are honest men, and would act separately with some humanity, and according to the rules of morality, yet, conjunctively, they are hard-hearted, determined villians." I apologize for introducing this passage, and I do not, of course, mean it literally, but I mean practically we find this to be the case, that we could make good arrangements with individuals of different boards; I do not

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speak of any board particularly. At the board of our union I know many individuals of extreme humanity, but even there we lose all chance of a satisfactory arrangement; therefore I do think that it is totally different from the former system.

15471. Mr. *Wakley.*] You find very little resemblance between the guardians when acting as individuals and when acting in their corporate capacity?—Yes.

15472. You having made a suggestion with regard to the mode of appointment and the mode of government of medical officers, what do you say should be the qualification of candidates to render them eligible for the situations?—They should possess the double legal qualification of both surgeon and apothecary; because the greater part of their duty is medical, and it must be absurd to appoint a mere surgeon to perform duties the majority of which are medical; he should have both qualifications.

15473. Of what standing should he be in his profession?—As the duties are exceedingly important, and require a great deal of experience, and are very varied in their nature, I should say, and I hope I may say it without any partiality or predilection, that three years' standing is as little as can possibly be required.

15474. *Chairman.*] Are the majority of country practitioners in possession of the double qualification?—I think now, commonly, they are.

15475. Mr. *Wakley.*] What do you say with regard to the scale of remuneration?—The scale must be determined; and it strikes me that a scale calculated upon the actual expenditure of the poor is as good a standard as I can very well conceive.

15476. *Chairman.*] Bearing some reference to the total expenditure upon the poor?—Exactly; then I think, as Dr. Kay has very well remarked in his evidence, that it should be made a local parochial charge, not a charge upon the establishment; and I think there is a great deal of force in his recommendation of its being applied in two forms; to the regular paupers in the first instance in the form of a salary, and the casual poor in a payment per case. Of course I see an objection, as I have always done, to payment per case, in this respect, that it tends to restrain the guardians from giving orders for medical relief, and I would rather avoid that by any instrumentality of my own, by a sacrifice on my part, and having more liberal orders, than I would restrict it by the payment per case; yet it must be, I suppose, done, inasmuch as it is impossible exactly to compute the relation of pauperism to population, and there is no means of calculating remuneration by a different rule.

15477. Mr. *Wakley.*] If a correct calculation could be made with reference to what ought to be the payment per case, then the difficulty that you have mentioned would be removed, if the salary were adjusted to that condition; we will take an example: suppose you take the average of three years, and ascertain correctly the number of cases that have been attended of the regular paupers and the casual poor, founding upon that discovery a salary according to the estimate that you have given, then the difficulty would not arise, if the medical practitioner engaged for one, two or three years to attend to the poor, with reference to the amount of salary prescribed?—No; that is the only mode of overcoming the difficulty.

15478. *Chairman.*] What proportion do you suppose that the charge for medical attendance should bear to the total expenditure for the poor?—That of course would vary, not only according to the peculiarities of situation and topography, but also the physical condition of the people, their employment and habits of life; and, most importantly, the distance; in one parish four per cent. upon the expenditure of the poor would be adequate, in a dense population, easily visited in a short time; but in a thinner population, and at a greater distance, I think seven per cent. would be hardly adequate to yield a compensation for that which can be very well computed, the cost of medicines, the professional skill, and the average amount of visits.

15479. Would those two ratios of four per cent. and seven per cent., according to the circumstances that you have described, cover the whole expense of medical attendance of the poor in any district?—It might do that, but I do not think that I should venture to recommend seven as the maximum; I think that it would fall short.

15480. Would you recommend four as the minimum in large towns?—I would not apply that to large towns; I think a smaller ratio might be applied to large towns; I am speaking of the small towns that exist in the country.

15481. Mr.

15481. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you made any estimate of what you consider ought to be the amount per case, from any data that have come before you?—I should say that 10*s.* would be the minimum; I should rather say 12*s.* if I were desirous of being within the mark.

15482. With regard to the regular paupers, what should be the sum?—Affording the requisite amount of medicine, I consider that the sum which I have heard, 6*s.* 6*d.*, would be too small, as far as my own observation extends, and as far as my own district extends; it might in a great many instances be adequate, but I think from 7*s.* to 8*s.* would be better.

15483. Have you ascertained what is the cost of medicines per case in the Aylesbury Infirmary?—It is 6*s.* 8*d.* per case, in and out patients.

15484. *Chairman.*] The cost of drugs?—The cost of drugs only; it is lower in large institutions; I believe the average in all institutions would be 2*s.* 6*d.*; but in the Aylesbury Infirmary there are a number of chronic and protracted cases, which make the sum considerable.

15485. I observe, in a printed publication of Mr. Rumsey, this statement, that the average cost of medicines for each patient in dispensary associations is 1*s.* 6*d.*; in the St. Mary's Parochial Dispensary, Nottingham, the average was 1*s.* 6*d.*; according to Dr. Bigsby's table, in 24 dispensaries, the total cost of drugs was 2,965*l.*, and the number of patients 28,635; therefore the average per case was nearly 2*s.* 1*d.*; according to the Rev. C. Oxenden's statistical report of provincial hospitals, the total expense of drugs and leeches only was 2*s.* 5¼*d.* per case; in fifteen annual reports of various dispensaries in London and the provinces, both charitable and self-supporting, the average cost of drugs was 1*s.* 3*d.* per case. "Upon the whole, therefore," this note, says Mr. Rumsey, speaking for himself, "I am bound to depend upon the accuracy of Dr. Calvert's estimate (where waste is prevented), and to allow 33 per cent. on the wholesale price of the drugs, or 6*d.* per case for the cost and trouble of dispensing; thus making 2*s.* per case for the total expense of medicines;" that statement appears, in some degree, to vary from the estimate that you have given?—It does; but I think that the more it is considered, the more appropriate my estimate will be found to be; I should be sorry to furnish all the medicines for the Aylesbury Union at 2*s.* 6*d.* a case.

15486. Mr. *Miles.*] Does that union subscribe to the infirmary?—Yes, it does.

15487. Would it not be fairer to take the cost of the drugs required in a dispensary; would not the milder cases be sent to the dispensaries, and would not the acute cases requiring the other medicines be sent to the infirmary?—No; because the infirmary is not sufficiently capacious for that purpose; I consider that parochial practice is of a different character from either dispensary practice or from hospital practice; I think both produce worse cases than the dispensary affords.

15488. Then you would draw an average between the two?—Yes.

15489. Mr. *Wakley.*] What do you include under the head of medicines in your infirmary?—Drugs and leeches.

15490. Wine?—Not wine.

15491. Surgical instruments?—No; merely medicines and leeches; the institution is not of many years' standing and the cases are always bad.

15492. *Chairman.*] Therefore that would not give a fair average of cases?—No, but I do not think it is so high as in a corresponding institution in another part of the country, but it is higher than the average.

15493. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you made a calculation of the prime cost of medicines for your private patients?—No, I have not; my expenses for parochial practice would be precisely the same; if I could have ascertained that, I could have ascertained the other; I have never made any distinction between the two; but then the different mode of prescribing of different medical men makes all the difference.

15494. *Chairman.*] Do you know what the price of medical attendance in any Friendly Society is?—The most respectable one that I know of in the neighbourhood is 9*s.* or 9*s.* 6*d.* per case.

15495. For each case of sickness 9*s.* is paid the medical attendant?—That is the sum.

15496. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is it not usual for the medical officers in Friendly Societies to receive a salary producing so much a head for the year whether the

parties are well or ill?—Yes, that is the usual mode; it is a contract plan without any supervision.

15497. You have not stated what you consider the size of the medical district should be in the rural unions as a general rule?—I should limit the extent to five or six miles,

15498. Mr. Rumsey stated 12 square miles?—I think that is a very good limit.

15499. Would you recommend that as many resident practitioners as could be found should be employed?—Yes, I should.

15500. In order to facilitate the attendance on the poor?—Yes; making medical attendance more accessible, and giving all an opportunity of participating in that in which they should all participate if they are disposed; it would be an advantage to the poor and to the community.

15501. Have you any thing to say upon the subject of medical clubs, or of the South Bucks Association?—It is the only one in principle that I can at all tolerate; it is founded upon a good principle, although it is perhaps imperfectly carried out, from the nature of the circumstances. It appears to me, that the principle of mutual assurance cannot be objected to, provided in its details it is worked out properly, a mode by which individuals subscribing to a common fund secure and pay for the medical attendance that they may possibly require, the payments being proportioned to the amount of labour, being a fair estimate of the value of the medical attendance, and the remuneration bearing a relation to the amount of duty done, and not as in the medical clubs, where it bears no relation to the amount of duty done; the payments bear no ratio to the amount of liability; they are framed upon the basis of the capability of the different individuals, and not their liability to need medical assistance.

15502. Do you believe that any institution of the kind, founded upon an unjust principle can be permanent?—It cannot, and of course the duty can be no more efficiently done in those than in the parochial appointments; with this additional objection that there is no one to control and to insist upon a due performance of it; whereas in the union there is a board of guardians to superintend.

15503. Have the medical officers in your neighbourhood been enjoined to form medical clubs?—It has been intimated to them that they should form them; I do not know that it is indispensable, but it is recommended by the guardians, and they have adopted the recommendation, but with what success I cannot say; I do not imagine with much success; first, because I see that great efforts are making to get them up again, and secondly, because I believe the labouring classes are unable to subscribe to them; moreover, they are known to be under the direction of the district officers, who are not always those whom the poor would select, if they had their choice.

15504. Do you consider it at all desirable that the board of guardians should interfere between the medical officers of the union and persons who are not in the receipt of parochial relief?—I do not see what business they have with them, and I am quite sure that it would deter all medical men who had any independence of feeling from having any thing to do with medical clubs; it would deter me even if I had any disposition to assist in the formation of them.

15505. You would decline being an officer in any union if, as a condition of your holding your office, you were required to assist in the formation of medical clubs?—I should, because I think the arrangements of the medical clubs should be left to the members of them and the medical attendants. I should wish to make a remark upon the separation of medicines from medical attendance; in considering the medical officer's salary, there are fixed data, at least the materials exist for arranging fixed data; so much a case for medicines may be allowed, and I certainly have a strong feeling upon that point, which I believe is participated in by a great many of the profession, that the supply of medicine should be separated from the other charges; it is practised in many large towns.

15506. *Chairman.*] Could you do that in the country parishes?—I could make a provision for that purpose; I do think in every country parish there should be a moderate supply of medicines, a medicine chest.

15507. So that when the medical man came, he should have the medicine at hand?—Yes.

15508. Mr. *Wakley.*] A medicine chest containing the ordinary remedies?—Yes, for any emergency, or indeed, any ordinary case.

15509. *Chairman.*] Would there be much expense attending that?—Very little.

15510. Taking

15510. Taking a parish of 500 people, what would be the expense of a medicine chest?—I would venture to say, that from 3*l.* to 5*l.* would be all the expense.

15511. Some of the medicines would keep, would they not?—Yes; but I would not have a large stock.

15512. Would you have them supplied by the medical officer?—It should depend on the general arrangements. He might supply such drugs at the cost price; or it might be a condition of office, and an element in the computation of his salary. The latter plan might be the least objectionable.

15513. Mr. *Wakley.*] Would you yourself consider it to be satisfactory that any other party should supply medicines which you are in the habit of prescribing?—I should like to have the control over it; I should practise with more satisfaction.

15514. Do you not believe that the practice of letting the offices by tender must have the effect of inducing the practitioner in many instances to buy drugs of an inferior quality?—I am sure it must, or he must be out of pocket; I have been out of pocket repeatedly by parochial contracts, but I have not continued to be out of pocket, because I have declined continuing the practice; men cannot year after year be out of pocket; they must supply inferior medicines.

15515. Are you convinced that adulterated drugs are frequently sold, and even at houses that are called respectable?—Yes. I might be permitted to say, that in the union in which I reside (having had some reason to find fault with their arrangements, it would be uncandid in me not to state), that the guardians have insisted upon the officers having a dispensary at some of the remote villages, at one or two or three, so as to save the paupers the trouble of coming a great distance; it is incumbent upon the officers to have a little dispensary in a room at two or three points in the union; that is the best substitute they could make for those arrangements, which they have neglected to make.

15516. Do you not consider that if the medicine chest were placed near the church in the village, or in some central situation, it might be made the means not only of frequently cutting short and arresting disease, but of diminishing the labour of the paupers in procuring their medicines?—Yes; but the objection on the part of the medical attendant is this; "Would you like the trouble of compounding it?" my reply is, "If I am the medical officer, I must take it and see it done; it is only an occasional thing;" if I were a medical officer I should have certain articles dispensed at leisure for the medicine chest; my dispenser would prepare them at my own house; and where they had time to send, or there was the convenience of the market-cart, any other complex preparation might be furnished in the usual mode.

15517. If the medicines were properly labelled, and prepared with reference to doses, and if the chest were lodged in the house of an intelligent person, might not the medicines, by a note from the practitioner, be often supplied without his presence?—Very often, by intelligent hands; but I am not a great advocate for non-professional persons making use of those means, but I have practically applied that by giving medicines to the clergyman of the parish, and requesting that he would dispense them according to my representation.

15518. Have you any other observation to make?—I do think that fractures and dislocations should be separate items in the payment; they are not very frequent, and would not be considerable in the account; but I think the circumstance of their being paid for separately is justified upon the ground of the great responsibility attending the treatment of such cases, the ready detecting of error or neglect, and the severe consequences likely to ensue, as well as the prompt attention that they require, often prolonged and careful attention; I think that would insure better attention to those cases.

15519. Do not you think the responsibility is equally as great in a case of fever?—It is equally great, but the neglect is not so well detected.

15520. Might it not lead to disputes?—I do not think it would, because a man would not break his arm to please the medical practitioner, it would be very small in amount, and insure a more prompt attention.

15521. Would you propose that they should be paid for according to some regular scale?—Yes, like midwifery; in a case of midwifery the practitioner is sent for suddenly and detained; so he is in a case of fracture, and he is frequently put to great expense and inconvenience by it.

APPENDIX.

Appendix.

RULES of the South Bucks Friendly Medical Relief Society, established at *High Wycombe*, October 1837.—Enrolled agreeably to the Acts 10 Geo. IV., c. 56, and 4 & 5 Will. IV., c. 40.

RULES.

1.—*The Object.*

The object of this society is to raise from time to time, by subscription among the members thereof, or by voluntary contributions, or by donations, a stock or fund for the mutual provision of medical and surgical attendance and medicine for such members as hereinafter set forth.

2.—*Members.*

Every person contributing by benefaction not less than 2*l.*, or by annual subscription not less than 5*s.*, shall become an honorary member; but not so as to be entitled, by any such benefaction or subscription, to any benefit or emolument from the funds of the society.

The benefiting members shall consist of persons belonging to the working classes, who are unable to pay for medical advice and drugs in the usual manner.

No one shall become a benefiting member who is actually suffering from disease; or whose average wages, emoluments, profits and income shall, in the whole, exceed 18*s.* per week; or if married, 21*s.* per week, including the earnings of the wife; or if supporting two children under 15 years of age, 25*s.* per week; or four or more children under 15 years of age, 30*s.* per week, including the earnings of such children. A declaration to this effect shall be signed by every benefiting member on admission.

Domestic servants receiving more than 8*l.* annual wages shall not be eligible, except they have parents or children dependent on them for support.

3.—*Management. Central Board, and District or Local Boards.*

The general affairs of the society shall be under the management of a central board of not less than five, or more than 25 directors, annually chosen from the honorary members of the society. The president, patrons, vice-presidents, trustees, treasurer, honorary secretary and the medical officers shall be ex-officio members. They shall meet quarterly in the months of January, April, July and October, at High Wycombe. The duties of the central board shall be to receive the quarterly statement of accounts, examine the books and papers, and medical reports, print and supply rules and forms and other papers and account books, and grant the policies. They shall also be a court of appeal to receive and consider any complaints from members. They shall decide on the exclusion or re-admission of members, the transfer or purchase of assurances, and the division and distribution of stock. They shall make the quinquennial returns, consider any propositions for the alteration of the rules, appoint or displace any officer or agent of the society, subject to the approval of the next annual meeting, and make the necessary arrangements for the annual meetings of the society, or any special general meetings of the boards. They shall also consider and determine on the propriety of investing the funds of the society in Government securities, and the necessity of withdrawing any portion thereof, either from the savings bank, or the National Debt Office for the uses of the society; and transact any other business which may be brought before them by the honorary secretary.

The society shall also be divided by the central board into convenient districts, each being governed by its own board of directors, consisting of honorary members only, chosen by the honorary and benefiting members assembled at the usual annual meetings for the district, and being not less than three, nor more than 12 in number. Such boards shall severally have full power to act for and in behalf of the society in their respective districts, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the society, which have been or shall hereafter be made or provided. And they shall, on their nomination thereto at a special meeting, to be held after the enrolment of these rules, collectively be a committee to make such alterations in the rules as may, after due deliberation, be deemed expedient, (which alterations shall be duly enrolled) according to the provisions of rule 6.

The members of the local boards shall be ex-officio members of the central board, and competent to attend and vote at any of the meetings.

4.—*Meetings. Annual Meetings. Special Meetings. Regulation of Meetings.*

An annual meeting of the honorary members of the society shall be held at any time and place, previously determined and made known by the central board. At this meeting an annual report of the state of the society shall be presented by the honorary secretary, and if approved shall be printed and circulated, and a statement of accounts inserted in the county papers.

Annual

Annual meetings of the honorary and benefiting members in the several districts shall be held at such times and places as the respective boards shall determine, at which the annual accounts for the district shall be presented.

The meetings of the local boards shall be held monthly within their respective districts, at such time and place as shall be determined and published at their first meeting. Three shall form a quorum. All questions shall be determined by the vote of the majority; but no proceedings shall be valid unless entered with the names of the directors present in the minute-book and signed by the chairman. In case a sufficient number are not present, the secretary shall adjourn the meeting to some convenient time, and enter such adjournment in the minute-book. Three of the directors shall attend in rotation, notice to that effect being always given by the secretary.

The central board shall meet quarterly. Five shall form a quorum, except in such cases as may hereinafter be provided. And all meetings of this board, or of the society, shall be conducted in the same manner as directed for the local boards.

Special meetings of the local boards may be convened by the secretaries by requisition of the district presidents, or two vice-presidents, or three directors, or five members, for the transaction of any important business.

A special meeting of the central board, or a general meeting of the directors of all the districts, shall be convened by the honorary secretary, on a requisition to that effect signed by seven honorary or benefiting members, or by three trustees or vice-presidents. The requisition and notice of meeting shall state the precise nature of the business to be transacted, and none other shall be taken into consideration.

An anniversary meeting of the honorary and benefiting members may he held in each of the districts, at such time and place, and under such regulations as the respective boards shall deem convenient; but the attendance at such meetings shall be voluntary, and the funds of the society shall not sustain any portion of the expenses incurred.

No meetings of the society or of any of the districts shall be held at any inn, public-house or beer-shop, nor at any place of a similar character or description.

5.—*Officers. Treasurer. Honorary Secretary. Trustees. Their duties and responsibilities.*

A treasurer, one or more honorary secretaries, two auditors, five arbitrators and a general secretary shall be chosen annually at the usual annual meetings of the honorary members of the society.

The treasurer shall balance his cash account quarterly, and supply the honorary secretary with a duplicate thereof. He shall be also one of the trustees of the society.

The honorary secretary shall attend the meetings of the central board, and the annual meetings, conduct the correspondence, sign the policies, receive and countersign the quarterly district accounts, issue notices of meetings, procure the printing of the rules, papers and forms, and supply the same to the several districts, and carry into effect, by the assistance of the general secretary, all the orders of the central board; and, in conjunction with the treasurer, transact any other business connected with the general supervision of the accounts, and of the affairs of the society.

The auditors shall examine the accounts half-yearly previous to their publication; they shall disallow any item not consistent with the rules, and sign the books if found correct.

The general secretary shall attend all meetings of the central board, and annual and special meetings of the society; keep the minutes, accounts, papers and documents of the society, and transact any business which may be required of him by the central board, or the honorary secretary or treasurer. He shall receive such salary as the central board shall appoint.

The district presidents, vice presidents, treasurers, auditors, secretaries and arbitrators shall be annually chosen at the usual annual meetings of their respective districts.

The district presidents, vice presidents, treasurers, auditors and medical officers shall be ex-officio members of the boards in their respective districts.

The district treasurer shall balance his cash account quarterly, and remit the money to the savings bank, or to the honorary secretary to the general account.

The district auditor shall examine and allow or disallow the accounts quarterly.

The district secretaries shall attend all the meetings of their respective boards, keep the accounts and minutes, admit members provisionally, conduct the correspondence, collect subscriptions, and transact all the business of the society in their respective districts, under the direction of their boards. They shall receive such salary as their respective boards may appoint.

Five arbitrators shall be annually chosen for each district, who shall decide on any dispute referred to them by their respective boards.

Male and female visitors shall be appointed, both from the honorary and benefiting members, from time to time as may be found requisite by the boards for their own districts. They shall visit the sick members as often as called upon so to do by the secretaries or local agents, and sign the sick lists, and report on all special cases.

Local agents may be appointed in such places and at such salary as the central board shall consider expedient. Every such agent shall strictly conform to the regulations prescribed by the central board.

One or more, but not exceeding seven, trustees shall be appointed in each district, whose names shall be enrolled at the National Debt Office. Every new trustee shall be nominated

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by the board acting for the district in which he resides, and his appointment determined at the next annual meeting of the society.

Every officer of the society concerned in the receipt, management or expenditure of any of the monies belonging to this society, shall, if required at any time, either by their own or by the central board, give security in such penal sum of money as the central board may direct.

6.—*Alteration of Rules.*

Any proposed alteration or amendment of the rules shall be submitted in writing to the central board, at a special meeting summoned for the purpose. And if such alterations, or any modifications of them, be considered desirable for the interests of the society, they shall order them to be printed, and duplicates to be forwarded to each of the boards for their consideration. The approval or disapproval of the boards shall be signified in writing to the honorary secretary, signed by three or more of the directors and a trustee, and countersigned by the secretaries. If approved by three-fourths of the members present at a special meeting of each of the boards, the central board shall enter them on the minutes, and cause them to be immediately enrolled, printed and circulated as the rules of the society. But if disapproved by any one of the boards, the central board shall, if they consider the proposed alterations of sufficient importance, call a general special meeting of the boards at some convenient place; when, if not less than 13 are present, the question shall be discussed, and finally decided by three-fourths of the committee then and there present.

7.—*Accounts. Security of Funds. Investment of Stock.*

The accounts of the society shall be kept by the general secretary, under the supervision of the honorary secretary. They shall be balanced and presented to the central board quarterly, at the regular quarterly meetings, and printed half-yearly. Twelve copies of the printed statement shall be sent to each board, but each of the honorary and benefiting members shall be entitled to a copy on payment of 3*d.*

The books shall be always open to the inspection of the honorary and benefiting members, on application to the general secretary, free of expense.

The accounts shall be divided into three parts—The management fund, arising from subscriptions and donations, and the sale of rules and papers, shall be applied to defray the official expenses of the institution. The members' fund, arising from the monthly contributions and fines of the members, shall be applied exclusively to the payments for medical attendance, medicines and articles required for the treatment of the sick members; and the surplus fund shall be applied in reduction of the members' payments.

The additional expenses of separate dispensaries shall be defrayed by the subscriptions of the honorary members of the several districts in which they may be established.

And to secure uniformity and correctness, the secretaries or local agents for the several districts shall transmit their respective accounts, together with the returned "sick lists," to the honorary secretary, in a form printed for the purpose, and provided by the central board, quarterly, on or before the last week in the months of December, March, June and September, in every year. The district accounts shall be signed by the treasurer, auditor and the secretary or agent of the district, and a duplicate kept by the secretaries. They shall, when delivered, be countersigned, if correct, by the honorary secretary, entered in the society's general account, and filed after having been also countersigned by the treasurer of the society.

The monies received by the treasurers of the several districts shall be remitted by them every quarter either to the savings bank, to the general account of the society, or to the honorary secretary, as may be most convenient, so much only being retained as shall be sufficient to cover the probable expenses of the ensuing quarter, in order that the society may have as little unemployed capital as possible. If transmitted to the honorary secretary it shall be acknowledged by him, and paid through the treasurer into the savings bank.

No monies, whether principal or interest, shall on any account be withdrawn, either from the savings bank or the National Debt Office, but by the signatures in writing of the majority of the trustees, witnessed also in writing, in a form printed for the purpose, or supplied by the savings bank or the National Debt Office.

8.—*Honorary Physicians.*

One honorary physician or more shall be appointed, if such can be found willing to give advice gratuitously to such members as may be recommended in writing by the surgeon in attendance.

9.—*Surgeons.*

Any surgeon residing within the limits of the society, who is legally qualified to practise, may propose himself for election as a surgeon of the society, at the annual meeting, for the district in which he resides, or in any emergency, at a special meeting of the local board, which shall have power to appoint him provisionally till the next annual meeting.

10.—*Medical Remuneration.*

The surgeons shall be remunerated according to the following scale for their attendance on cases of sickness and accident.

For

For all Patients attended at their own houses.

DURATION OF CASE.		NUMBER OF VISITS.	CHARGE.	
			s.	*d.*
From 1 to 3 days -		- 2 -	2	–
„ 4 or 5 days -		- 3 -	3	–
„ 6 or 7 days -		- 4 -	4	–
From 8 to 10 days -	Or for a longer period	- 5 -	5	–
„ 11 to 14 days -	if the Patient has not	- 6 -	6	–
„ 15 to 20 days -	received more than -	- 7 -	7	–
„ 21 to 24 days -		- 8 -	7	6
„ 25 to 36 days -		- 9 -	8	6
„ 37 to 48 days -		- 10 -	9	6

And so, in like proportion, for any additional number of days and visits.

For Attendance given at the Dispensary, or the Surgeon's House, half of each of the above payments.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
For the capital operations of Surgery and Compound Fractures and Compound Dislocations - - - - - - - - -	2	2	–
For Fractures of the larger bones, and Dislocations of larger joints -	1	1	–
For Fractures of the smaller bones - - - - - - - -	–	10	6

A relapse of the same disorder, or a complaint resulting therefrom, occurring within a month of the date of discharge, shall, as far as the remuneration of the surgeon is concerned, be considered as a continuation of the original case.

If two or more cases of illness occur in the same family at the same time, and require visiting at home, every such case after the first shall be charged at the same rate as cases attended at the dispensary or surgeon's house.

A fixed amount shall be paid for journies, according to the following scale:—All journies under five miles, for the first 6*d.* per mile; the others 3*d.* per mile. All journies beyond five miles, shall be paid for at a double rate for each additional mile.

Journies during the night from sun-set till sun-rise, shall be charged at a double rate.

11.—*Supply of Medicines.*

Where a dispensary is established, a dispenser shall be appointed by the local board, with a recommendation from the surgeons. He shall take charge of the drugs and stores of the establishment, and give an account of all articles received by him, and take stock of the drugs at the end of each dispensary year; he shall not send an order for any drug without the signature of one of the surgeons; he shall not absent himself without permission of the surgeons, and shall dispense medicines at the appointed hours, and at other times if required; he shall on no account prescribe for any patient nor administer any medicines, except by prescription of a medical officer with date affixed; he shall keep the case books as the surgeons shall direct; and if guilty of any improper conduct, may be suspended by the surgeons until the next board meeting. He shall, if not resident in the dispensary house, receive 6*d.* for every case of sickness and accident entered on the books; but if resident, he shall receive such salary as the board may appoint, and be answerable to the board for the dispensary being in a state of order and repair, and shall keep an inventory of the effects and furniture belonging to the institution, and be accountable for the loss of any for which he cannot assign a satisfactory reason. He will be required to give security before entering office; he shall keep an account of the quantity of the several medicines supplied to the patients, according to the form prescribed by the board.

Where no dispensary is established, the surgeons may supply the medicines from their own houses; in which case, either the quantity of the several drugs which they shall have supplied to the sick members shall be estimated from their prescription books quarterly, according to the said prescribed form, by a dispenser or some other qualified person appointed for this purpose by the central board, the surgeons being paid the cost price for the drugs thus supplied, which price shall be uniform throughout the society and shall be regulated by the central board; or, if any surgeon shall decline to produce his prescription book for the purposes of such estimate, he shall be paid for every case of sickness an average sum, not exceeding 2*s.*, for the medicines which he may have supplied.

12.—*Reports.*

Reports of the number, nature, duration and result of cases and the amount of attendance which has been afforded to each, shall be made quarterly by the surgeons and forwarded to the secretaries, who shall compare them with and correct them by the Sick Lists, and forward them to the central board; and the surgeons shall depute one of their own body to draw up an annual return from those reports, for which return a fixed charge of from one to three guineas shall be paid, according to the extent of the society.

Appendix.

13.—*Members' Payments.*

Every benefiting member shall pay according to the following table a monthly sum, proportioned to his or her age on admission:—

Age on admission.	Monthly Contributions.	Age on Admission.	Monthly Contributions.
	d.		*d.*
Under - - 15	- - 3 - -	51 to - - 54	- - 6½
15 to - - 20	- - 4 - -	54 „ - - 57	- - 6¾
20 „ - - 24	- - 4¼ - -	57 „ - - 60	- - 7
24 „ - - 28	- - 4½ - -	60 „ - - 62	- - 7¼
28 „ - - 32	- - 4¾ - -	62 „ - - 64	- - 7½
32 „ - - 36	- - 5 - -	64 „ - - 66	- - 7¾
36 „ - - 39	- - 5¼ - -	66 „ - - 68	- - 8
39 „ - - 42	- - 5½ - -	68 „ - - 70	- - 8¼
42 „ - - 45	- - 5¾ - -	70 „ - - 72	- - 8½
45 „ - - 48	- - 6 - -	72 „ - - 75	- - 8¾
48 „ - - 51	- - 6¼ - -	75 and upwards -	- - 9

Every member shall pay his contributions to the Secretary, on the first Monday in every calendar month, between the hours of six and seven in the evening, at his house, or at such time and place as shall be appointed by the boards. The first monthly contribution shall become due on the day of admission.

Those members who are constitutionally liable to sickness or infirmity shall pay double the amount of the monthly contribution specified in the table.

Members living at a distance will be charged journies according to the following scale:— If resident five miles and under from the house of the surgeon, 6 *d.* per mile for the first journey, and 3 *d.* per mile for each journey afterwards; for every mile above five miles, the charge will be doubled. For journies during the night, from sun-set to sun-rise, the charge will be doubled. The charge for journies shall either be paid at the time to the surgeon or it shall be entered by the surgeon on the sick list, and shall be paid by the member when the sick list is returned to the secretary.

Some families, according to their earnings, may be admitted without any charge for children; and others at a smaller payment for some of the children, the rest being admitted free, according to the following scale:—

Average Amount of Income not exceeding per Week	Number of Children charged for, the rest being free.	Sum to be paid per Month for each Child charged.
s.		*d.*
12 - - -	None charged for.	–
15 - - -	- One - -	- - 2
18 - - -	- Two - -	- - 2
21 - - -	- Three - -	- - 2
25 - - -	- Three - -	- - 3

Families whose weekly income exceeds 25 *s.* shall not be entitled to any benefit under this scale

No families will be admitted on the above scale unless the father and mother, if living, shall have become members.

Orphans provided for by relatives or friends, who are members of the society, shall be entitled to the same benefit.

Journies will not be charged for children admitted according to the above scale; but if any fall ill within one month after admission, 2 *s.* must be paid to the secretary before he will grant a certificate for medicines or medical attendance.

No

No additional payments will be required for those admitted according to this scale who are constitutionally liable to sickness.

The difference between the payments made according to the above scale and those in the table shall be charged to the honorary subscriptions.

14.—*Proposal for Admission. Certificate of Baptism. Certificate of Health. Declaration and Enrolment.*

Any person desirous of becoming a member of this society may tender his or her proposal in the form to be obtained from the secretary.

Every candidate for admission shall, if required, when his or her proposal has been examined and approved by the board, deliver to the secretary an attested copy of the register of his or her baptism or birth, or an affidavit, certifying his or her age; the surgeon who has previously attended the candidate for admission, must certify, according to a form to be provided by the board, whether or not such candidate is constitutionally subject or otherwise liable to disease.

Every candidate whose proposal and certificates above mentioned have been approved, shall, if admitted, sign a declaration, in a form provided by the central board, and to be obtained of the secretary. When the declaration required by the board shall have been duly executed, the candidate shall be enrolled as a member of this society, and shall take a copy of the rules and pay three-pence for the same, except in families, when one copy shall be sufficient for each family.

The proposals of members under 15 years of age shall be made and signed on their behalf by their fathers or mothers or natural guardians.

Every such member on attaining the age of 15 shall propose himself for admission on his own behalf, and shall pay at the increased rate specified in the table.

If any member applies for the assistance of the society within the first month after his admission, he shall pay a sum equal to 12 months' subscription.

15.—*Arrears.*

No member shall be entitled to relief unless all arrears are paid up.

Every member being one month in arrear, shall pay a fine of 1*d.*; if two months in arrear, a fine of 3*d.*; if three months in arrear, he shall, after having had due notice given by the clerk or local secretary, be excluded from the institution; but the board shall have the power of re-admitting him, should sufficient excuse be shown for his neglect.

16.—*Choice of Surgeons.*

Every member shall have the choice of either of the surgeons belonging to the institution, so that no change be made during the continuance of a case of illness.

17.—*Punishment of Fraud.*

All members neglecting to comply with these rules, or interrupting the business, or attempting in any way to defraud or impose on the institution, will be reported to the board, and be liable to be fined at its discretion any sum not exceeding one year's contribution, or to be expelled.

18.—*Transfer of Assurances.*

If any member shall remove to any place in which a medical provident society or institution, founded upon the same principles as this society, shall have been established according to law, the directors of the central board, at any general meeting assembled, not being less than seven in number, may transfer his or her assurance and interest to any such medical provident society or institution, in which case they shall authorize the treasurer to pay into the funds of such other society a sum of money equivalent to such transfer. In like manner any member of such other institution or society may, by and with the approbation of the directors in general meeting assembled, on becoming an inhabitant of any place within the limits of this society, be admitted a member of this society, on payment of an equivalent, and conforming to the rules prescribed for the admission of members.

19.—*Purchase of Assurances by the Society. Sale of Assurances by the Members.*

If any change in the occupation, abode, circumstances or condition of any member should render it equitable and expedient that his assurance should be dissolved, it shall be lawful in every such case for the directors of the central board, at a general meeting assembled, to purchase for the society the assurance of any member at such price as they may think reasonable.

No member shall sell, assign, transfer or convey the benefit granted by this society, or the policy relating thereto. Every agreement or contract entered into for any such purpose shall be null and void, and the assurance or allowance therein mentioned shall be forthwith forfeited.

 20.—*Application*

Appendix.

20.—*Application for Relief.*

Members applying to the surgeons for medical assistance must bring, within 24 hours from such application, a certificate from a local secretary or from the clerk of the dispensary, stating that such member is entitled to medical assistance according to the rules; which certificate must be returned, with the medical reports, to the secretaries.

21.—*Sick List.*

The secretary shall, at the time of furnishing the member with the above certificate, also supply him with a paper entitled "The Sick List," which shall be signed by one of the visitors of the society at least once a week, who shall also state the condition in which he finds the patient, and whether he is able to attend at the dispensary or the surgeon's house for advice.

The secretary shall also have power to send notices to any other members of the society residing near the patient, who shall visit him, and report to the secretary if they see anything amiss.

22.—*Attendance.*

Those patients who are able to do so must attend at the surgeon's house or the dispensary on one of the days, and at the hour, if possible, which their surgeon may have appointed. Those who are too ill to attend must send, if possible, before nine o'clock in the morning, to their surgeon, who will visit them at their own houses.

They must find or purchase the bottles and bandages which may be required, and must on each attendance bring with them their sick list, and return it to the secretary at the close of their illness, for which they shall receive the sum of 1*d.*

The surgeons shall enter every visit or attendance on the sick lists at the time of seeing the patients. The medical remuneration will be calculated from the sick lists.

23.—*Vaccination.*

Benefiting members may be vaccinated gratis. Those who apply for vaccination must leave their names a week previously with the surgeon or dispenser.

24.—*Midwifery.*

No female member will be attended in her confinement, in right of her weekly or monthly payment; but she may have the medicine necessary for that period free of charge, if attended by one of the surgeons of the institution.

25.—*Certain Diseases.*

No member of this institution shall be entitled to medical attendance or medicines, in right of his weekly contribution, for certain diseases contracted by profligacy or immorality. The application of this rule to individuals to be determined by the surgeons.

26.—*Complaints.*

If any patient has reason to complain of neglect, or of the misconduct of any of the officers of this institution, he is requested to inform the board, or the surgeons, who shall make strict inquiry into the circumstances of the case, and redress any real grievance.

27.—*Settlement of Disputes.*

Every matter in dispute shall be decided by arbitration, according to the provisions of the Act 10 Geo. IV., c. 56, s. 27. And on occasion of any dispute, the names of the arbitrators shall be written on pieces of paper, and placed in a box or glass, and the three whose names are first drawn out by the complaining party, or some one on his or her behalf, shall be the arbitrators to decide the matter in dispute.

28.—*Division of Stock.*

Whenever it shall appear to the directors of the central board, not being less than 13 in number, in general meeting assembled, that the stock or funds of this society, arising from the contributions of the benefiting members, shall have accumulated so as to be more than sufficient to discharge the whole of the claims made or liable to be made thereon, it shall then be lawful for the board to declare a dividend of such surplus, or of such part thereof as may be deemed expedient, and to divide the same equitably among the members of this society, by allotting to each a due share of the sum so disposable; provided that every share so allotted to any member shall be appropriated by the board, to reduce the amount of the monthly contributions payable by such member, or to effect an assurance for other persons related to, or dependent for support on such member, but no such division or distribution shall be made until it have been certified by an actuary, to be appointed by the board for this purpose, that according to the most correct calculation of which the case will admit, the interests of all the contributors to this society are, by the proposed scheme of division or distribution fairly dealt with and secured.

29.—*Quinquennial*

29.—*Quinquennial Returns.*

This society shall, every five years, transmit to the Barrister appointed to certify the rules of friendly societies, a return of the rate of sickness and mortality experienced by this society within the said period, according to the form in the Schedule.

30.—*Incidental Expenses.*

Every expense occasioned by postage, carriage, or otherwise, in conducting the transactions between this society and the members thereof, shall be discharged by the individual member on whose account such expense may have been incurred; the sum so due to the society shall be payable in like manner, and subject to the same fines as the arrears of the monthly payments. And all money arising from contributions and fines shall be applied to the purposes in these rules mentioned, and in defraying the necessary expenses attending the management of the affairs of the society. Any officer misapplying the funds shall repay the same and be expelled.

31.—*Dissolution.*

This society shall not be dissolved, unless with the consent of five-sixths of the members, as well as of all those receiving or entitled to relief, and agreeably to 10 Geo. IV., c. 56, s. 26.

32.—*Rules.*

The rules and regulations of this society, and the several declarations, certificates and instruments relating thereto, shall be printed and published by the central board at the general expense of the society, for the use of the members.

The Barrister's Certificate.

I hereby certify, that the foregoing rules are in conformity to law, and with the provisions of the Act 10 Geo. IV., c. 56, intituled, "An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Friendly Societies," as amended by the 4th & 5th Will. IV., c. 40.

John Tidd Pratt,
The Barrister at Law appointed to certify the rules of Friendly Societies.

4, Elm Court, Temple,
November 1837.

Jovis, 21° *die Junii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

Robert Dundas Thomson, Esq., M.D., called in; and Examined.

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15522. Mr. *Wakley.*] WHERE do you reside?—In Gower-street, London.

15523. Are you in practice as a physician?—Yes.

15524. Are you a graduate of medicine?—I am, and also a surgeon.

15525. Of what university?—Glasgow.

15526. Are you physician to any public institution in London?—I am physician to the Blenheim-street Free Dispensary.

15527. Are you a lecturer on chemistry in London?—I am.

15528. Have you directed your attention particularly to pharmacy?—Some years ago, my attention being directed to the bad state of vegetable preparations, I examined them with particular care, and assisted in introducing a number of improved preparations, which cost me a great deal of time, and a considerable sum of money.

15529. With whom did you act upon that occasion?—Mr. Laming, a member of the College of Surgeons.

15530. Did your uncle, Dr. Thomson, of Glasgow, take part in those inquiries and investigations?—He did not, with the exception of examining the substances, and giving his opinion of their improved state; Dr. Christison, of Edinburgh, also gave a similar opinion.

15531. But you conducted, in conjunction with your uncle, of Glasgow, a publication, entitled, "Records of General Science"?—I did.

15532. Were any of the improvements that you recommended adopted by the drug trade?—No, they were not; the principal objection being the price at which they must necessarily be sold, because the processes were difficult and numerous.

15533. Are many medical substances rendered useless in consequence of the defective manner in which they are prepared?—Extracts, from the nature of the processes recommended in the Pharmacopœia, are very often useless, because the processes require very great attention.

15534. Through how many hands do medical substances pass before they generally reach the consumer?—Drugs are collected in the countries from which they derive their origin, by the natives of those countries; they are purchased by a merchant who imports them into this country; this merchant employs a broker who sends the drugs, if they are capable of being readily tested, to a scientific chemist; the medicines which fall more particularly under this head are saltpetre, sal ammoniac, and other soluble substances; the wholesale druggist employs a broker who examines the analysis, and purchases for him; the wholesale druggist then sorts the drugs; the purest kind he sells in their natural state, the second kind he reserves for powders, and the worst kind of all he reserves for tinctures; and this inferior kind very often is in a state of decomposition.

15535. When you say they are sent to a scientific chemist, you mean a practical and analytical chemist?—Yes, I do.

15536. Is there a business called drug-grinding?—With the exception of two houses in London, all the wholesale druggists send their drugs to be ground by drug-grinders.

15537. In

15537. In what form do drugs and the ordinary agents employed in medical practice appear in the drug market?—As seeds, roots, leaves, gums, balsams, resins and oils.

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15538. In what forms are medicines generally administered, and in what state are they sold by the wholesale druggists?—They are either employed in the form of solution, in some menstruum, as in spirit and water, or in the solid form; most generally they require to be reduced to a state of powder.

15539. Are drugs invariably genuine when they are first exposed in the drug market?—Roots cannot be readily adulterated, although one case has been mentioned, in the continental journals, of the adulteration of jalap; pieces of jalap-root were joined together by means of paste, and they were soaked in tincture of jalap so as to give them the odour of the plant.

15540. *Chairman.*] Was it a jalap root?—Yes, but of an inferior description; when the drugs occur in masses, frauds are very often practised; opium often contains pieces of iron embedded in it; calomel, which is an indispensable preparation of mercury, used very extensively in medical practice, often consists of very little more than sulphate of barytes, which is an inert substance.

15541. Mr. *Wakley.*] Are you aware that white precipitate of mercury is sometimes sold as calomel?—Yes, I have heard of that; it has never occurred in my personal observation; but the most remarkable adulteration is that of scammony, the resin obtained from a plant; the price offered by the druggists for it is so small that the foreign merchant is unable to supply it at that price.

15542. *Chairman.*] From what part does it come?—From the Mediterranean, from Syria;—and for this purpose he mixes it with a quantity of extraneous matter; I have generally found an immense quantity of chalk; I will exhibit a specimen of it. [*The Witness exhibited the specimen.*] I may mention, that in this substance the active ingredient often varies from 8½ per cent. to 81¼ per cent.; gamboge, which is a purgative very frequently employed, is in one variety said to be a manufactured article; milk of sulphur, as it occurs in commerce, contains one-half its weight of stucco, which is proved by exposing it to heat, the sulphur is then driven off, and the stucco remains behind; I may mention that there are certain vegetable powders which are mixed with a certain quantity of extraneous matter by the drug-grinders, ostensibly for the purpose of clearing the mill, generally to the extent of 14 per cent., and those substances are aloes, gum arabic, capsicums, cubebs, euphorbium, guaiacum, storax. I am informed by a druggist who grinds his own drugs, that it is quite unnecessary to add any of those extraneous ingredients. Peruvian bark is often made by the drug-grinder of charcoal, Venetian red, Carthaginian bark, lignum vitæ and satin-wood; this mixture was sold about 40 years ago by the Apothecaries' Company, and it was also sent to the army as Peruvian bark. A remarkable fact requires to be stated in reference to this mixture, that a druggist sent 20 chests of pure genuine bark to a drug-grinder; the drug-grinder laid aside 18 chests for himself, he ground the two chests, and he mixed the two chests up with 18 chests of extraneous matter, and sold the 18 genuine chests for his own private profit; a practical chemist would have very little difficulty in detecting this adulteration. Calamine, or carbonate of zinc, as it occurs in commerce, contains very little zinc at all; it consists principally of sulphate of barytes coloured with a little iron; this adulteration may be very readily detected by boiling the powder in a dilute acid; the zinc will be dissolved, and the sulphate of barytes will remain in a state of powder. Ginger is adulterated with 50 per cent. of capsicums, satin-wood, saw-dust and flour, but the article sold for ginger often does not contain more than 30 per cent. of ginger. Jalap is adulterated with 28 lbs. of barley-meal per cwt., and also with lignum vitæ dust; it is common to send 84 lbs. of jalap to be made into a cwt. Liquorice powder is often made according to the following formula, and given as horse-powder; half cwt. of common sugar; one-and-a-half cwt. of barley-meal, and 7 lbs. of turmeric. Lac and plumbago are adulterated with coal. Opium, which is an indispensable remedy in medicine, is adulterated with extract of senna, to render it soft, and sometimes contains from 30 to 60 per cent. of water. Rhubarb is often made by the drug-grinder, of 14 lbs. of flour, 8 oz. of turmeric, and 98 lbs. of rhubarb; now this is considered a very good article, but it often contains not more than one-half its weight of rhubarb. Nitrate of silver, which is used extensively in medicine as a caustic, and is indispensable to the surgeon, is adulterated with nitrate of lead,

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and this to a very great extent; the adulteration, however, is very readily detected by dissolving the salt in water, and adding a few drops of sulphuric acid; the lead is precipitated by the sulphuric acid in the form of a white powder, and the nitrate of silver remains in solution. Tinctures are diluted with water. Those drugs which are sent to the drug-grinder are invariably of an inferior quality; the process of drug-grinding consists in drying the drug and then grinding it in a mill, similar to a flour-mill; the loss sustained by powders during those processes varies in each particular case, but it may be estimated at from six to 12 per cent., and yet, with one exception, all the drug-grinders of London send home their powders with a constant loss of four per cent. Jalap loses about eight per cent., so that as 84 lbs. of jalap are frequently sent to be made into a hundred weight, the adulteration would be about 36 lbs. per hundred weight, that is, about one-third. In illustration of this it may be mentioned, that jalap was recently offered to a druggist at the same price for which it might be bought in bond, by the agent of a drug-grinder.

15543. Mr. *Freshfield.*] So that the adulteration must have been at least equal to the duty?—Yes; he was enabled to do this by keeping back a portion of the genuine article and adulterating the powder which he returned to the druggist who had supplied him with it; sometimes the adulteration of powders is carried to an enormous extent; one gentleman in the country, who had at one time been in the drug trade, but who has now retired, informed me that he had been offered any powder he pleased to order at 36*s.* per cwt., and when the person who made the offer was asked if the powders were genuine articles, he said they were the best he could give at that price; so that by diluting a powder the price may be brought down to satisfy the most stingy purchaser; the drug-grinder does not in all cases adulterate, but the druggist sometimes sends out the article in its natural state, mixed with a number of extraneous ingredients; the drug-grinder in this case also adulterates, so that very little of the genuine article ever reaches the consumer.

15544. Mr. *Wakley.*] Would you state to the Committee that in general this adulteration takes place with the drug-grinders, and that you also fear with a great number of wholesale druggists?—Yes.

15545. And you are apprehensive that the evil is one of very great extent?—Yes, of very great extent.

15546. Mr. *Hodges.*] If those frauds are practised by the drug-grinder, what security has the public for the genuine nature of the drugs which are purchased at Apothecaries' Hall?—I am not aware whether Apothecaries' Hall employ drug-grinders or not.

15547. Does that company exert any particular inspection over the drug-grinder, so as to be answerable for the genuine nature of the drugs that they sell?—I am not aware.

15548. Then what possible security has the public, if the fact be as you have stated, for the genuineness of any drugs they buy at any druggists?—The only security they have is, before purchasing the drug, to subject it to the inspection of a practical or scientific chemist.

15549. Are the apothecaries who purchase those drugs from the chemists able to test the drugs that they buy?—They consider themselves judges only of roots and drugs, as they occur in the drug-market, barks, leaves and those which I mentioned before, but they do not pretend at all to be able to test drugs by any chemical tests.

15550. Then it does not at all follow that a medical practitioner, who will give a liberal price for his drugs, is certain of having them at all more genuine than a man who goes into the market and gets them at the lowest price that he can?—If he employs a respectable druggist, and one who grinds his own drugs, if the moral character of that individual is good, I should say that he is likely to obtain the drugs in their genuine state.

15551. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Are there eminent druggists who grind their own drugs?—I should not wish to mention names; but I am acquainted with the names of those who do grind their own drugs.

15552. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you consider that their doing so is the best foundation, in fact, the only effectual security, for their being genuine?—Yes, for the genuineness of powders; I speak as to powders.

15553. Are you acquainted with many wholesale druggists in London?—No, not a great many.

15554. Or the mode in which they conduct their business?—I know the general mode in which they conduct their business.

15555. What number grind their own drugs?—Only two grind their own drugs, as far as my knowledge permits me to state.

15556. Have you in the course of your inquiries heard that at the inspections which are occasionally made by members of the Apothecaries' Company, they have been induced on some occasions to pronounce that the articles which they themselves had supplied were bad, and that they threw them into the street, and had them destroyed?—I have heard so.

15557. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Though there are few druggists who grind their own drugs, is it not known that several of them are practical chemists, and are very likely to test their drugs before they sell them?—I am not aware that those individuals who do grind their own drugs are scientific chemists.

15558. But besides those who do grind their own drugs, is it not known that several of the others are scientific chemists?—I speak of the wholesale druggists; the retail druggists, a few of whom are scientific, are supplied by the wholesale with drugs generally.

15559. Mr. *Liddell.*] Is it ever the practice with the vendors of drugs to have a double assortment of drugs, and to supply the rich with a better quality of drugs, and the poor with an inferior quality?—Only so far as price is concerned.

15560. *Chairman.*] Do you believe that the drugs adulterated in the manner you describe are generally sold to the medical practitioners in the country?—I believe so; that many of them are sold.

15561. You believe that the drugs generally administered to the patients of medical practitioners in the country are adulterated to the extent that you describe?—I believe that many drugs are adulterated to the extent I have described, and that you have no security for their not being adulterated, unless you employ those druggists who grind their own drugs.

15562. Have not the medical men some means by testing, of ascertaining whether the drugs are or are not adulterated?—I believe that it is necessary that a man should be intimately acquainted with the science of chemistry to detect these adulterations.

15563. Do you believe that a medical man, having the ordinary education provided for medical men in this country, has or has not the means of detecting whether the drugs are adulterated?—I believe many medical men, who have paid attention to chemistry, may have such knowledge as to enable them to test many of the drugs.

15564. Do you, from your knowledge of the profession, believe that the medical men practising in this country have or have not the requisite knowledge to enable them to ascertain whether the drugs are adulterated or not?—I believe the education prescribed is not calculated to direct their attention to the subject of chemistry sufficiently for them to possess that knowledge.

15565. Then, you believe the education and attainments of the medical men generally practising in this country to be such as to make them unable to distinguish genuine from adulterated drugs?—I believe, so far as a chemical education is prescribed by the different boards, that medical men are not likely to possess that knowledge.

15566. But, without referring at this moment to any course of education that may be prescribed by any boards that may exist, what I wish to know is, whether, from your acquaintance with the medical profession, you believe medical men generally to be in a capacity to distinguish genuine from adulterated drugs?—I believe they are not.

15567. You believe, therefore, that they are liable to be imposed upon by the persons from whom they purchase those drugs?—They certainly are liable.

15568. Do you believe generally that they are imposed upon?—To a certain extent.

15569. Do you believe those drugs to be generally and commonly sold as the drugs which are administered by the medical men practising in the country?—Several of those powders, to my knowledge, are administered by medical men without their knowledge of the adulteration.

15570. Do you believe that drugs adulterated in the manner which you have described are administered to any particular class of society exclusively, or to

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one class more than another?—Inasmuch as price is one of the tests by which medicines are too often purchased, the poor will be more liable than others to be supplied with bad remedies.

15571. You have said that the education and attainments of the medical profession of this country generally do not enable them to distinguish genuine from adulterated drugs?—I have; I mean the education prescribed, as regards chemistry.

15572. Am I correct in supposing you to have stated that the attainments generally possessed by the medical men in this country are such as not to enable them to distinguish genuine from adulterated drugs?—Yes; I speak only from my own knowledge.

15573. You have said that, inasmuch as the price of drugs must enter into the calculations of persons who administer them, you think that the labouring classes, being less capable of paying the higher price, may be more exposed to the administration of bad drugs?—Yes.

15574. Do you believe then that the medical men purchase two descriptions of drugs, one for the poorer and the other for their richer patients?—I believe that medical men, when great competition exists, are likely to purchase the cheapest drugs they can find.

15575. Do you believe that the medical practitioners of the country are generally in the habit of purchasing two descriptions of drugs, one cheap and the other of a dearer description, and that they administer the cheaper description to the poor, and the dearer description to their richer patients?—No, I do not.

15576. If that is not the case, and if they are not in the habit of purchasing two descriptions of drugs, one for the purpose of being administered to the poor, and the other to the richer patients, in what respects are the poor exposed to the administration of inferior drugs?—In cases where there is great competition for situations for the medical relief of the sick poor.

15577. In cases where there may be great competition for situations for the purpose of giving medical relief to the sick poor, in those cases is it your opinion that the medical practitioners may be driven to the practice of procuring two descriptions of drugs, one inferior to the other?—I cannot pretend to give an opinion upon such a subject; my knowledge of medical practitioners in the country is not sufficient to enable me; I do not believe that they would be guilty of such a thing; I have too high a respect for the profession to suppose any thing of the kind.

15578. If you have too high a respect for the profession to suppose that they would do any thing of the kind, in the case I have put, of extreme competition, do you believe that in any case it can be the practice of medical men in the country to purchase two descriptions of drugs, with the distinct intention of administering the inferior description to the poorer classes of their patients?—Certainly not, among respectable practitioners.

15579. If that is not the case, how would you infer that the poor are exposed to the administration of an inferior description of drugs?—Because an inferior set of men may be driven to compete for situations, and it would be their direct interest to purchase cheap drugs; I mean men of inferior moral character.

15580. Have you any knowledge that persons of that description have by competition obtained situations, enabling them to administer medical relief to the poor?—I have no personal knowledge of that.

15581. Have you any reason to believe that persons of the description you have mentioned have obtained such situations?—From the evidence that I have heard in this Committee, I should be inclined to believe so.

15582. From the evidence you have heard in this Committee, you would be inclined to believe that persons of inferior moral character have obtained situations for the relief of the poor; will you point out what description of evidence has given rise in your mind to that impression?—I think from the answers given by Mr. Ceely; the cases were in the Aylesbury Union where some individuals were not re-elected, from the dissatisfaction which was experienced by the guardians.

15583. Do you know any thing of the persons who were placed in the situations of those gentlemen?—I have no personal knowledge; from the evidence which I have heard in the Committee, I think the thing is possible.

15584. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is it not notorious that the same article by name may be bought at various prices?—Yes, if you go to men who are not to be depended upon.

15585. Do

15585. Do you happen to know whether it is the practice to sell drugs cheaper, which are understood to be charity drugs, to be given to the poor?—No, I do not. *R. D. Thomson Esq., M. D.* 21 June 1838.

15586. Mr. *Wakley.*] You are yourself a physician to a dispensary?—Yes.

15587. As physician to that dispensary, are you in the habit of prescribing the costly medicines which are given by medical practitioners to their patients in the higher classes of society?—The medical officers in our dispensary are in the habit of supplying many of the drugs from their own pocket, so that I have used many of my own preparations without charging for them.

15588. Mr. *Liddell.*] In a serious and critical case, would you hesitate to give the best drugs that that case required?—Certainly not.

15889. Would you think, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, supposing the case were a serious and critical case, the medical man would not give the best drugs that were within his reach?—I cannot pretend to give a general opinion with regard to all medical men, but I know that a great many would do so, as far as my own observation goes.

15590. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you think it to be a natural inference, that if medical officers holding public situations are paid inadequate sums for the discharge of their duties, they should be driven to an inferior drug market?—It is very probable.

15591. (To Mr. *Ceely.*) In your practice as a surgeon in the country, from its having been known that you were an attendant upon the poor, have you been offered medicines at a cheap rate for pauper practice?—I have; it occurred seven or eight years ago; the chemist who wished me to deal with him said, "I believe you have a great deal of poor to attend;" I said I had; then he said, "I can supply you with drugs much cheaper for paupers;" of course I had nothing more to do with him.

15592. *Chairman.*] Without referring to any particular individual, but speaking from your general knowledge of the profession, do you believe that the use of drugs of the description you have referred to is at all general in the profession?—I believe there is great diversity in the drugs, and I infer that from the great diversity of price; I believe that there is great adulteration; and I am sure of it; I meet with it frequently myself.

15593. Do you believe that it is the practice of that part of the profession with which you are acquainted to administer one description of drugs to the poor and another to the rich?—I am not aware of that.

15594. Do you conceive it to be done?—I should conceive that when it is done it is done in ignorance.

15595. Is there not a difference made in the mode of preparing medicines, without impairing their effects?—They may be administered in a more or less costly shape.

15596. Is it not that difference in the mode of preparation which constitutes the difference of expense in the administration of drugs to the poor and to the rich?—Chiefly.

George Robert Rowe, Esq., called in; and Examined.

15597. Mr. *Wakley.*] YOU reside at Chigwell, in the county of Essex?—I do. *G. R. Rowe, Es*

15598. Is that in the Epping Union?—It is.

15599. Are you a member of any college?—I am member of the college of surgeons.

15600. How long have you been in practice at Chigwell?—Between 15 and 16 years at Chigwell; but I have been in practice altogether 26 years as a general practitioner.

15601. Did you hold any situation in Chigwell, with regard to the treatment of the sick poor, before the Epping Union was formed?—Yes, I have been parochial surgeon ever since my residence there.

15602. Will you state what were the circumstances under which you attended the poor immediately preceding the formation of the union?—Immediately preceding the formation of the union the remuneration that I received was in the shape of a salary of 25 guineas a year, exclusive of surgery and midwifery, and my charge for attending those paupers who did not actually belong to the parish; but the total amount that I have received during the 12 or 14 years, for 12 years I had the average, amounted to 458*l.*, giving an average for the 12 years of 38*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

15603. By whom were you appointed?—By the parish in vestry.

15604. Had you any disputes, or did you work together harmoniously?—Never any disputes during the whole time; I believe I can boast of having been unanimously elected for 12 or 13 years successively.

15605. Will you explain to the Committee what took place when the union was formed?—When the union was first formed in January 1836, it was suggested to me, as holding rather a prominent situation in the union, by some of the guardians, that it would be better that the medical men residing in the union should have a meeting and discuss the subject, and suggest any measures which we thought expedient to be carried out, to the board of guardians. On the day of the first election, which was to take place in March succeeding, Lady-day, which was generally the annual day of electing parish officers, we had that meeting, and I had the honour of being appointed their chairman; the result of that meeting was, that it was decided that I should address the board of guardians, which I did to the following effect: "March 15, 1836.—To the Board of Guardians of the Epping Union.—Gentlemen, In consequence of the contemplated changes in the medical attendance on the poor of the Epping Union, I have the honour to address you, and state the opinion as well as the terms that most of my professional friends are willing to adopt. We feel quite confident that the nature and importance of our duties to the poor will be duly estimated by you, and that while you are desirous to secure a rigid system of economy, you are equally anxious that our fair claims of compensation should be duly considered. On reference to the proceedings at Chelmsford, Dunmow, Sampford, and many other places, we find that the average has been made of the last three years, adding to the workhouse establishment by a proportional deduction from parishes where there are none. This plan we are ready to abide by. I assure you I am only echoing the sentiments of all my professional neighbours and friends, when I state most distinctly that we are desirous of meeting your views in every possible manner consistent with the welfare of the sick poor, and a slight remuneration for our services. On reference to the Epping district, I find the following calculation, which I have inclosed, and which requires your special perusal, which I think must be admitted as a fair test of the moderate scale of remuneration which has heretofore been adopted in the whole of this union. On Friday, at three o'clock, we intend ourselves the pleasure of waiting upon your board. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, yours, &c., *G. R. Rowe.*"—The estimate that was inclosed in this letter was to the following effect:—" Estimate of Epping District: Epping, the population 3,313; Coopersale, 841; Thoydon Bois, 676; Weald, 387; making a total population of 5,717; admitting one-fourth to be paupers, although in many of the agricultural districts it may be stated at two-thirds, but take one-fourth as paupers, will amount to 1,429, which, at 2*s.* per head, only produced a sum of 142*l.* 18*s.* Now the sum that had been hitherto received was, for the Epping parish alone, 50*l.*; for Coopersale, 25*l.*; for Thoydon Bois, 15*l.*, and for Weald, 25*l.*; thus making a sum of 115*l.* that had been hitherto received upon the old system; and that the medical men were willing to accede to, under the new mode: this calculation was made on purpose to show to the board how very inadequately the medical men had been remunerated; because, at 2*s.* per head only, on the whole of the pauper population, it amounts to 142*l.* 18*s.*, whereas they had received only 115*l.* a year." In reply to that proposition of ours we were met with a refusal; there was a scheme offered to us of 2*s.* 6*d.* per head for a man per annum; 1*s.* 6*d.* per head for a woman, and 6*d.* for the child; this, with one exception, was refused by the rest of the medical men.

15606. Mr. *Liddell.*] Was that for each case they attended, or for each individual of the pauper population?—Each individual in the receipt of weekly relief; but the guardians reserved to themselves the privilege of increasing that number. The best way to illustrate it would be to give the population of my own parish; the pauper population of my own parish amounts to 440, or something more than 400; and in the pauper schedule they comprised 100, that is 100 were the only persons receiving weekly relief; therefore if any of the other 300 became sick, they had reserved to themselves the privilege of putting the sick patients into the schedule upon the same terms.

15607. Mr. *Wakley.*] At 2*s.* 6*d.* and 1*s.* 6*d.*, and 6*d.* a head?—Yes, so that in the event of a family of six children, and a man and his wife, which is frequently the case in our district, being attacked by sickness, the medical man was called upon to attend the poor family for 7*s.*

15608. For the whole year?—Yes.

15609. *Chairman.*] Whom do you mean by paupers?—Those who are not capable of maintaining themselves when they are sick.

15610. Do you mean to describe a man as a pauper who is not in the receipt of parish relief?—I consider, that the moment the man applies to the parochial officers for medical relief, the man becomes a pauper.

15611. No doubt if the man applies for relief of any description and receives it, he becomes a pauper; but were those 400 in the receipt of relief of any description?—Only 100 were in the receipt of medical relief, but the other 300 were entitled to call upon the medical man for assistance, because their necessities were of that nature, that they could not provide it themselves.

15612. How do you know that?—From my own connexion with them; they were always considered paupers by me, from my having attended them for so many years.

15613. Then the state of things is this; 100 persons were receiving parochial relief, and, in your estimation, 300 other persons were in such circumstances that if sickness attacked them they would be under the necessity of applying for medical relief?—Yes, I am quite sure of that.

15614. But the number of paupers, strictly speaking, were limited to 100?—Yes.

15615. And the remaining 300 were persons in such circumstances as to render it probable that, in the event of their becoming ill, they would not be able to provide medical relief for themselves?—Not only probable, but certain.

15616. Who formed an opinion upon that subject?—This was a scheme suggested for our approval by the board, under the direction of the Assistant-commissioner, Mr. Power.

15617. Did the board of guardians come to this decision, that whereas 100 persons were regular paupers, in the receipt of constant parish relief of some description or another, 300 other persons were in such circumstances as to entitle them to medical relief in the event of their being ill?—No; they considered that those 300 were liable to become paupers the moment they were sick, because they made the provision for it; in fact, they made the medical man liable to attend 400 paupers, and paid for only 100.

15618. Mr. *Liddell.*] While in health those 300 could maintain themselves by their own labour?—Yes, but not always then, for sometimes they were out of work, and then they applied for parochial relief.

15619. Mr. *Fielden.*] If you had accepted the proposal, would you have considered yourself under the necessity of attending those 400 persons?—Certainly.

15620. Mr. *Wakley.*] The terms were these, that you were offered 2*s.* 6*d.* a case for each man; 1*s.* 6*d.* for each woman; and 6*d.* for each child, for 100 paupers; and that supposing the board of guardians should find that in the course of a year, other persons should become sick and entitled to medical relief, they should enter those other persons at exactly the same price?—Exactly; thus you were contracting for 400, and being paid only for 100.

15621. *Chairman.*] In what sense were you contracting for 400, and being paid only for 100?—I was paid for those 100 whether they were sick or well.

15622. But if out of the 300 that remained, any were sent to you you would be paid for them?—At the same ratio.

15623. Then supposing that there had been an epidemic, and the whole or a great many of the 300 remaining had been attacked with sickness, and had come to you for medical assistance, you would have been paid for them?—Yes.

15624. How then can it be correct to say, that you were liable to be called upon to attend 400, and you were paid only for 100, when, if any of the 300, beyond the first 100, had come to you for medical assistance, you would have been paid for them upon the same terms?—Yes, that is what I complain of.

15625. Mr. *Liddell.*] If you had attended to 200, instead of 100, you would have received double the amount which you would have received, if you had attended only 100?—Exactly; I will give a case in point: I accepted my appointment, under the advice of my professional friends, without reference to any claim which I might hereafter make upon the guardians, for I having been long attached to the parish, I expected that I should have to attend them, let who would be appointed; and we were threatened that if we did not accept those

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terms, there would be plenty of talented young men from Somerset-house who would be sent down to supplant us.

15626. *Chairman.*] Name the individual that said to you that talented young men from Somerset-house would be sent down?—The chairman of the board of guardians.

15627. You do not mean that young men would be sent down who had not received medical education?—No.

15628. Were they qualified practitioners?—I think there is some doubt whether they were qualified, or at least, whether one was qualified.

15629. Have individuals been sent into your neighbourhood, of whose legal qualifications to practise you entertain any doubt?—I think there is one.

15630. Mr. *Hodges.*] When the chairman of the board of guardians gave you that answer, was the Assistant-commissioner in the room at the time?—No; the chairman stated this to me afterwards, and stated that he regretted that an arrangement could not be made with the medical men, rather than that two strangers should be introduced into the union.

15631. Did the chairman tell you from what authority he derived this information?—From Mr. Power; Mr. Power wrote a letter to the board after we refused, which occurred between their first and second meeting.

15632–3. Mr. *Wakley.*] Were you not, with regard to the paupers, paid according to the population; and then, were you not required afterwards to attend exactly at the same ratio for all that should become sick, as for those for whom you had been paid on the aggregate?—Exactly; I will give you an illustration; having accepted this appointment, the first quarter there were 67 patients in the workhouse, at the distance of two miles from my house, and there were 66 patients in different parts of the parish, making a total of 133; so that the remuneration amounted to the sum of 3*l.* 12*s.* for the quarter, attending 133 patients, which was little more than 6*d.*, but not quite $6\frac{3}{4}d.$ per case.

15634. How long did you continue to act under that arrangement?—I have continued to act for two years this last Lady-day; they have made a different arrangement; I have never made any claim upon the guardians, and I do not know at what ratio they have paid me.

15635. What amount have you received for the year and a quarter?—There were from 150 to 200 in the workhouse; that they paid me extra for, including some out of the house, because they comprised a great many who were non-parishioners of Chigwell; they sent me 47*l.* 4*s.* for the year and a quarter, including this 2*s.* 6*d.* a head upon all those who came into the workhouse.

15636. *Chairman.*] Upon the whole, what has been your remuneration for any one year since you have acted as the medical attendant?—I do not know; I have never had any account from the board of guardians, but by the relieving officer, two cheques, the one 47*l.*, the other 34*l.*

15637. For the two years?—Two years last Lady-day.

15638. When did you receive those cheques?—I do not know whether I received the last before Lady-day or since.

15639. You consider those cheques to have paid you for the whole time that you have attended the union, from your first appointment up to Lady-day?—Yes.

15640. For how long a period?—Two years; that includes midwifery and those patients that were sent into the workhouse.

15641. Do you know what number of cases you have attended in those two years?—I could tell by the returns; in some weeks we have had 30 sick in the workhouse, and sometimes from 17 to 20 out of the house; but there have been regular returns sent to the board of the parties ill, with their diseases.

15642. Mr. *Wakley.*] You cannot state what it was per head?—I cannot; for I did not trouble my head with it after the first quarter, I was so disgusted with it; but still I would rather have attended them for nothing than give it up; I said to the guardians "I will make no account out; give me what you think proper."

15643. *Chairman.*] Probably you would rather attend upon inferior terms than that a stranger should be introduced into the neighbourhood?—Yes.

15644. He might interfere with your private practice?—Yes; or he might destroy that sort of friendship that exists among neighbours.

15645. Mr.

15645. Mr. *Liddell.*] Does this include the expense of drugs and leeches?—Yes; and all the cases of midwifery and fractures, and all sorts of casualties.

15646. What is the average number of midwifery cases in the course of the year?—I think we have had more in the workhouse, from the patients being sent there from different parishes.

15647. Do you know what number of midwifery cases you have had in the past year in the workhouse?—Ten or twelve.

15648. What is the average charge among the labouring classes in the neighbourhood for attending upon a midwifery case?—A guinea.

15649. And have you had 10 midwifery cases in the course of the last year?—Yes, but we were never paid by parishes more than half-a-guinea.

15650. Formerly you were paid half-a-guinea?—Yes, 10*s.* 6*d.*, and then they reduced it; they took off the 6*d.*

15651. Those cases were all included in the amount of remuneration which you have received?—Yes.

15652. Mr. *Fielden.*] You said that you had 30 sick in the workhouse; do you know the number of inmates in the workhouse at that period?—One hundred and twenty-seven; and I think we may consider it as an average from 12 to 16 constantly sick, requiring daily and alternate days of attendance.

15653. Did the inmates of the workhouse consist of persons of all ages, or were they principally old persons and children?—Old persons and children.

15654. Do you know the proportion of children that were in the workhouse at that period?—No, I do not.

15655. Was the sickness among the children or the old people?—The old people, chiefly.

15656. Were the children tolerably healthy?—Yes, tolerably.

15657. Mr. *Wakley.*] What was the description of illness?—Influenza; and some of the children, a small portion of them, had the measles.

15658. *Chairman.*] Was there any thing in the regulation of the workhouse or in the diet of the workhouse that you thought affected the health of any of the inmates?—No, because what I ordered was always immediately given.

15659. Could you attribute any of the illness which there was in the workhouse to the diet?—No; once I detected some improper sort of food, which was remedied immediately.

15660. Mr. *Liddell.*] It may be presumed that a medical man gains something from attendance upon a workhouse by experience, independent of the remuneration?—It is very true that we all profit by experience; and a young man would have felt more anxious to attend a workhouse than a man of 26 years' practice.

15661. Is it not analogous to hospital practice?—Not quite so.

15662. Mr. *Wakley.*] Were the proposals which the guardians made accepted by the medical men of the district?—No.

15663. What occurred then?—Two medical men were sent down from London; the guardians advertised, I should state.

15664. How were they paid?—They were paid upon the same scale.

15665. Do you mean to state that the medical officers, who were introduced as strangers were paid according to the terms which had been proposed to the resident practitioners by the guardians?—Yes.

15666. How long did those practitioners remain?—One remained nine weeks, and then he introduced the present one, first applying to one of the old established surgeons to succeed him, who, of course, refused.

15667. What became of the officers who were in the Ongar Union and in the Epping Union, and who had displaced the resident medical practitioners?—There were two of them; one was dismissed, in consequence of a coroner's inquest in the Epping Union; and another was dismissed in consequence of another coroner's inquest.

15668. *Chairman.*] What was the nature of those inquests?—They were inquests upon the bodies of persons that they had attended; I do not know the particulars.

15669. Do you happen to know whether there was any thing in the inquests reflecting upon their treatment of the cases?—I presume there was, or they would not have been dismissed.

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15670. Mr. *Wakley.*] What is the extent of the Epping district ?—About five or six miles.

15671. Is that its longest extent ?—I think it is quite six miles, if not more, in circumference; taking Epping as the centre, it radiates five or six miles in one direction; I know that it is six miles.

15672. Then the gentlemen who were introduced are still practising there ?—One is at Loughton, and the one who was introduced into Ongar is residing at Blackmore; I believe he is there still, notwithstanding his dismissal by the board; and the other who was dismissed has left since.

15673. *Chairman.*] At this moment, speaking of your union, are there what you call strangers practising under the orders of the board ?—There are two now.

15674. Persons who were introduced in consequence of the medical men of the district declining to accede to the terms offered by the board ?—Exactly.

15675. Those persons were strangers to the district ?—Yes.

15676. Have they obtained a considerable amount of practice since they have resided there ?—I do not know, I rather think not.

15677. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have they been employed by any of the guardians ?—I think not; I can mention a circumstance with reference to one of the Epping practitioners, the second one who came down; he was afflicted with a cataract, and it was necessary for him to come to town for some relief, and during his absence a poor man met with an accident, and he immediately applied to a druggist, who, I believe, I am not quite sure, was deputed by this practitioner to take charge of the poor in his absence, and he gave him something to rub it with: however, the man remained all the next day, which was the Sunday, and the next night, in a state of great torture, and on the Monday some of his neighbours persuaded him to go to one of the old established practitioners, relying upon his charity to assist him; he did so, and the medical practitioner found that his shoulder was actually dislocated, and he had remained two nights and a day in this horrible state.

15678. *Chairman.*] This was a case in which the medical man had a cataract and was obliged to go to London to be cured; during his absence did the board of guardians make any arrangements for having his place supplied ?—I believe not.

15679. Do you believe that no arrangement was made either by the board of guardians or the medical practitioner to supply his place during his absence ?—That I cannot state; I believe not; I give this case as it was given to me by the practitioner who reduced the dislocation; and I have no doubt that he would be able to give every information.

15680. Do you suppose the medical man who went to London to be cured of a cataract, delivered his patients to a druggist during his absence ?—I would not state that from my own knowledge, because I would be sorry to state that which I could not afterwards substantiate.

15681. Mr. *Liddell.*] You have reason to know that this man went to the druggist ?—He did; and he went afterwards to the practitioner who reduced the dislocation.

15682. Of those two facts you feel perfectly convinced ?—Yes, decidedly.

William Farr, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. Farr, Esq.

15683. Mr. *Wakley.*] WHERE do you reside ?—In Grafton-street, London.

15684. Are you a member of the council of the British Medical Association ?—I am.

15685. Was a Poor Law committee formed in that association for conducting an inquiry into the operation of the medical department of the Poor Law Amendment Act ?—Yes.

15686. How long have you been in practice as a surgeon in London ?—Five years.

15687. Will you state to the Committee what opportunities you have had of acquiring a knowledge of your profession and of experience in medical practice ?—I was three years in a hospital in the country, the Shrewsbury Infirmary; two years studying in the University of Paris, and two in University College, London; after that I was six months in the situation of house-surgeon to the Shrewsbury Infirmary, where I saw a good deal of practice among the poor; since then I have been in London.

15688. You have had considerable experience with regard to the treatment of the sick poor, not only in London but in the country ?—I have.

15689. Have

15689. Have you devoted a large portion of your time to the study of vital statistics?—Yes, I have, in connexion with medicine.

15690. Are you the author of an article entitled "Vital Statistics," which was published in the work of Mr. M'Culloch, entitled, "A Statistical Account of the British Empire"?—Yes, I am.

15691. Have you, at my request, and with the permission of the Chairman of this Committee, examined the medical returns which have been presented to the House of Commons, and referred to this Committee, from the medical officers and clerks of the different unions?—I have; and I ought to say, that every facility has been given by the Committee for the examination of the returns, and that the House of Commons has granted all the returns that are required for the investigation of the subject.

15692. Will you give to the Committee the explanations which you deem necessary with reference to the data which you find in the returns?—Nearly all the calculations which I have made are founded upon the first return; a return in pursuance of an Order of the House of Commons for the year ending the 31st of December, 1837; which appears to have been made by the medical men, and reduced into form by the clerks of the unions. The return is of the number of parishes and the population in 1831; and in the calculations I have made a correction, and brought down the population to what it would be in 1837, supposing that it increased in the same ratio as from 1801 to 1831: as the population increases fast in this country, that was quite necessary. The area is given in acres, and I have reduced the acres into square miles. The distance in miles of the boundary of the district from the surgeon's residence is also given; for instance, in Camberwell parish, the distance of the boundary from the surgeon's residence, to the north, is one mile; to the south, two miles; to the east, half a mile; to the west, a mile; that does not show the extreme limits of the boundary, but we thought that it would show pretty well the distance of the boundary from the surgeon's residence. The name of the medical officer follows; the nature of his medical qualification or title; a member of what college or medical company; the age of the medical officer; the age when he was licensed to practise; his age on taking office, and his age on entering the district. It was thought that that would show how long the medical officers had been in districts before they were appointed to office under the guardians; but that head has been misunderstood by so many, that I have not been able to obtain any results from it.

15693. Do you think that the expressions in the return really have been misunderstood, or that the required information has been designedly withheld?—I should think the return was misunderstood; I suppose so.

15694. Have you the heading?—The heading is, "Age on taking office; age on entering the district."

15695. *Chairman.*] Has an accurate return to that question not been made in many instances?—In several instances.

15696. Has it not been made in the majority of instances?—I should not be able to say that; it may be in the majority, but it is not much more than the majority of instances.

15697. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you find that the neglect to make a return with regard to the age has occurred principally in those districts where it appears that strangers have been introduced?—I do not know; I know that to be the case in two or three districts with which I am acquainted. The next column gives the average number constantly on the sick list; we shall have to make considerable use of that column, and therefore I shall add that I believe it has generally been calculated, by taking an average of the numbers on the sick list at the end of every week given in to the boards of guardians; that is, if 80 were on the list one Saturday, 89 on the Saturday following, and 70 on the third Saturday, adding up the three sums and dividing the total by three would, of course, give the average; the medical officers have done that for all the weeks of the year, and divided the sum by 52, and in that way got the number constantly on the sick list, and constantly requiring medical care. The next column gives the total number of cases treated; to avoid any exaggeration, another column has been added in the return, giving the total number of persons who have received medical relief. We know, from benefit societies and other sources, that the same person is sometimes

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ill more than once in the year, and we know that in the London dispensaries, and I believe in the London unions, the same person is lost sight of in the course of two or three weeks, and comes again and is entered as a new case, though the disease may be the same; a disease of the heart, for instance. This error frequently occurs in cities, more rarely in the country; but the return enables us to check it. If the Committee will allow me I will give an example; the whole number of cases in the Croydon Union was 1,037, but the total number of persons treated was only 732. The total number of cases, I should say, is exaggerated in all the returns, and in all the hospital reports that we procure; it is not the number of cases discharged or treated generally, that is given under this head, but the total number of persons on the books at the beginning of the year, added to the total number admitted during the year. The total number on the books at the beginning of the year should not be added to the number admitted; and the best means of obtaining the number of cases treated, is to take the number of cases discharged; that I have done in the tables, so that we have diminished considerably, perhaps 10 or 15 per cent., the number of cases treated by the medical men, in order to be rather under the mark than over it in stating the number of cases.

15698. *Chairman.*] You think that likely to lead to a greater approximation to the truth?—Yes. The return of the number of attendances required from the medical officers is, I think, exceedingly useful; but a distinction has been made here between the attendances at the surgeon's residence, at the workhouse, and at the patient's home; and that distinction is very important. Of course where the patient attends at the surgeon's house the surgeon is saved the time and trouble of visiting the patient at his own home, and when patients are scattered over a large district that makes a considerable difference, and should be taken into account in estimating the salary; it would be, perhaps, as well to make a cross instead of a straight line when the surgeon attends patients at their own homes; and another alteration that would be very useful, would be to have another character to indicate a visit made by the assistant or the apprentice, because I understand that a great many of the attendances are made by apprentices and assistants in some districts.

15699. What reason have you to know that?—I have heard it; I think it would have an excellent effect if that was marked in red ink, so that a person who looked over the book of attendances might see at once whether the visit had been paid personally by the surgeon, or by his apprentice or assistant.

15700. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you apprehend that it would be an effectual check, unless the name of the patient were inserted as well?—The name of the patient is inserted.

15701. And the date of the visit?—The date of the visit is given. Three other columns in the Return show the number cured, dead, or who otherwise ceased to be under medical treatment, and were lost sight of; that number varies very considerably; the number cured includes many suffering under chronic diseases, and relieved; the next column is the number remaining under medical treatment on the 1st of January 1838; that column is valuable in this respect, that when the numbers are taken together, it shows the average number under treatment, and checks another column, the average number constantly on the sick list. The last column gives the amount of salary, any addition for midwifery, special diseases or accidents, special remuneration, if any, for non-settled paupers, and finally, the remuneration where a salary is not paid, the nature of the remuneration and amount of the remuneration. The salary has always been returned, but where additions have been made for midwifery the amount per case has generally been given; so that we have not in all cases the total amount of remuneration including the extras. The Poor Law Commissioners, I have no doubt, will be able to give that from returns by the clerks of the guardians, which I understand they are preparing; the amount of salary, here, will be a little below the total amount received by the medical men. Another return in pursuance of an order of the House of Commons, which has not yet been printed, shows the total number of persons relieved out of the workhouse, in the workhouse, and the total number of orders given for medical relief; for relief of any other description except medical; and the total number of orders for relief; I have not done anything with these returns, as they came in only recently, but I wish to read a few of them over, in order to show the nature

nature of the information which they furnish. It appears that in the Cookham Union, the total number of persons relieved out of the workhouse was 227; in the workhouse 244; total 471; the number of orders given for medical relief was 199; for relief of any other description except medical, two; this shows the relation, as I understand it, between the amount of orders given for medical and for other relief, and consequently gives some idea of the relative proportion receiving medical relief and receiving other relief. The relieving officers do not seem in all cases to have understood it in the same way. I will read another, the East Hampstead Union; the total number of persons relieved during the year ending the 31st of December 1837, out of the workhouse 200; in the workhouse 91; total, 291; the number of orders given for medical relief, 512; relief of any other description except medical, 123; total number of orders for relief, 635. The number of orders given in the Farringdon Union for medical relief was 494; relief of any other description except medical, 182.

15702. Mr. *Wakley*.] Will you state the object which you had in view in proposing this return, and then state how nearly you have attained that object? —We wished to ascertain the number of orders given for relief of every description; and the number of orders given for medical relief, in order to show the relation between the medical relief and relief of any other description.

15703. Have you any observation to make upon the size of medical districts? —From looking over the returns, I have made out a list of some of the districts that appear to be much too large. But first of the average size of the medical districts. It appears from a return, that the number of unions is 501; that the area of those unions in square miles is 39,205, and that the area of each union in square miles is 78. From another return to an order of the House of Commons, not printed, it appears that 314 unions contained 1,137 medical districts, consequently that each union is divided, on an average, into 3·62 medical districts; that is, 100 unions are divided into 362 medical districts; 78 square miles, divided by 3·62, gives the average area of the medical districts, and from that it appears that the area is about 21½ square miles. Now I will mention some of the larger unions. The Leighton Buzzard Union was mentioned yesterday; it is 55 square miles; the surgeon appears to reside nearly in the centre of the district; but it is eight miles from his residence in one direction. The Newbury Union is 72 square miles; the surgeon there appears to reside in the centre of his district.

15704. He has the whole union?—Yes; it is seven-and-a-half miles from his residence to one of the extreme points. These numbers do not give the extreme points, but the distance north or south, or east or west; if, therefore, the greater distance should occur between these points, it would not be given. In the Wallingford Union the area of the medical district is 26 miles; the boundary of the union is eight miles from the surgeon's residence in one direction. In the Workingham Union district No. 1, the area is 25 square miles; but the surgeon residing out of the district, the distance from his residence, in one direction, is eight-and-a-half miles. In Devonshire the districts are generally small; but the Oakhampton Union, district 2, is 54 square miles in area, and the boundary is eight miles from the sugeon's residence in one direction. I have several other districts that I pass over. In Northleach, in Gloucestershire, the upper medical district is not distinguished from the lower, and the area of both is 109 square miles; the surgeon resides out of the district, apparently; it is 11 miles from his residence, to the southern extremity of the district. Districts 1 and 4 of the Kington Union, Herefordshire; Mr. Merrick was the surgeon in 1837. The area isnot given in square miles, but the distance from the surgeon's residence in one direction is only one mile, in another 10 miles; in the Ledbury Union, district 2, the surgeon appears to reside out of the district; the distance from his residence is 11 miles in one direction, 10 in another; in the Leominster Union, district 3, the area is 25 square miles; but the surgeon residing out of the district, the distance of the boundary from his residence in one direction is 12 miles; in the Hereford Union, district 3, the distance from the surgeon's residence in one direction is 10 miles. There are few returns from Lancashire; I suppose but few unions have been formed; but the distance from the surgeon's residence in the West Broughton district is 11 miles in one direction; and in the Colton district, 10 miles in one direction.

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In Norfolk, the Thetford Union, comprising parts of Thetford and Hopton, the distance from the surgeon's residence is $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles in one direction; but I should say, that in the Norfolk and Suffolk Unions, under Dr. Kay, subsidiary medical officers have generally been employed to take the extreme parishes; an arrangement which I could not recognize in making up this list, as the medical districts appeared to me to be the only thing we could pay attention to. The other may be a temporary arrangement.

15705. Do you find that there is a considerable difference in the size of the districts in Norfolk and Suffolk?—Very great differences; but the inconveniences are generally obviated in the way I have mentioned.

15706. In Suffolk you find that they are of a very small size?—Yes; in Norfolk and Suffolk nearly all the medical officers that would undertake the employment under the Poor Law Amendment Act seem to be engaged; I state that from Dr. Kay's return appended to his evidence. In Northumberland the Haltwistle Union east and west division, comprises an area of 108 square miles. No notice in the other districts, I should say, is taken of subsidiaries; I am not aware that they employ subsidiary medical officers in other districts. In Salop the distance of the boundary of district 2, Clun Union, in one direction is 11 miles, in another four, in another five, in another six; in Westmorland, Shap West ward comprises 98 square miles; the distance from the surgeon's residence in one direction is nine miles; in York, the Driffield Union comprises 115 square miles; its distance from the surgeon's residence in one direction is nine miles; in another, six; in another, six; in another, nine. The inconveniences to the sick poor of these arrangements are very obvious. In the first place, they have to send to the relieving officer and to the surgeon a distance of 7 and 8 and 10 and 11 and 14 miles, and after they have sent for the surgeon they have to send for medicines, or the person has to wait at the surgeon's house till he returns and orders the medicine. A case of small-pox, that occurred at St. Albans, illustrates that very well. If in a family, for instance, at nine miles distance, the wife was attacked with inflammation, and the children were young, the husband would have to leave his work and waste the day in going to the surgeon, and he would have to travel a distance of twice nine miles, making 18 in all; he would then have to go again for the medicine, or wait, if the surgeon did not return home directly, which would be improbable, as the surgeon would have most likely to visit other parties in that remote district. If the distance were less considerable younger children might be sent; but when the distance is so great, of course a grown-up person must be necessarily employed, and that causes a great waste of the labourer's time. The increase of expense to the surgeon is immense; the difference between visiting patients scattered over a small and a large district must be very great; it must involve the keeping of two or three horses, in addition to the horses which he would require for his private practice. It has a direct tendency to increase the expense of the medical attendance; whether that expense is borne by the surgeon or the guardians is indifferent; it is an unnecessary expenditure of time and labour, which may be otherwise employed; and in the greater number of instances that is quite unnecessary, as surgeons reside nearer; in some instances it is inevitable, but in the greater number of instances I believe it may be avoided. Some advantages have been supposed to arise from having large medical districts; it has been said that making the districts large increases the interest of the medical officer in the appointment; but the remuneration of the medical officer can never be sufficient to cover the increase of expense; and no salary that the Poor Law guardians could give would be equivalent to the labour, if properly performed, in those large districts.

15707. Have you examined the returns with reference to the number of patients which the medical officers have to attend in the medical districts?—I have; I have made out a list of a few of the places that seem to have a very large population under the care of one medical officer. I mentioned the Leighton Buzzard and the Newbury Unions as being very extensive; they are also very populous; the former contained 11,824 inhabitants in 1831; the population of Newbury was 18,999 in the same year. The number of cases treated was 1,845 (and here I have taken the total number of cases treated as given in the return, not the cases discharged, as was explained before, so that it is a little too high,) and the number constantly sick and constantly under the care of the medical officer

officer in Leighton Buzzard, was 100: in Newbury Union it was 93. If those persons were seen every other day, the medical officer in Leighton Buzzard Union would have daily to visit 50 persons, scattered over an area of 55 square miles. In the Newbury Union, if the surgeon visited the 93 patients every other day, he would have daily to visit 46 patients, scattered over an area of 72 square miles. I will not enter into the details of any of the others, but merely mention that the Dover Medical district comprises a population of 20,507; the Seven Oaks and Shoreham district, a population of 13,735; the Leicester Union, district No. 1, 23,954 inhabitants; No. 2, 13,745. The Lincoln Union, district No. 1, comprised 65 parishes; the population was 25,988; the number of cases was 550; the number constantly sick 20. The metropolitan districts are of course the most populous; the Bethnal-Green Union comprised a population of 62,018 in 1831; it is divided into three medical districts. In St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the population was 23,970; 1,511 cases were treated; 125 were constantly on the sick list in 1837. The Lambeth Union comprises a population of 87,856; it is divided into six districts. Mr. Bryant, I see, attended 4,564 cases in 1837; the number constantly sick under his care amounted to about 45; Mr. Cook attended 2,563 cases; he had 55 sick persons constantly under his care. Mr. Mitchell attended 2,266 cases; he had 123 sick persons constantly under his care. Mr. Wagstaffe attended 7,057 cases in the year, and he had 90 persons constantly under his care. This will afford me an opportunity of explaining the difference between the number of persons attended by the medical officer, and the number of cases. Mr. Wagstaffe had 7,057 cases; Mr. Wagstaffe's returns are very accurately made; and it appears from them that 10 persons furnished 24 cases, so that each person was counted more than twice. This would of course be quite unintentional on Mr. Wagstaffe's part; and I am not prepared to say that that number of fresh cases did not occur. It might be a different disease on the second occasion from the disease on the first occasion; and it is remarked by those who attend friendly societies, that the same persons are generally sick several times, while some persons never have an attack of sickness, so that the number of persons that fall sick during the year is different from the number of cases; and in the Metropolitan Districts, the cases at the dispensaries, and even the cases counted here, are, I think, exaggerated in many instances by dividing the same case; a chronic case for instance into two or three parts, from forgetting the person, and entering him as a second case, when it is an aggravation of the disease that had never been entirely cured before.

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15708. (To Mr. *Evans.*) Are you a surgeon?—I am a surgeon and a licensed apothecary.

15709. Where do you practise?—In the Borough of Southwark.

15710. Have you the charge of a number of poor there?—I had for a number of years.

15711. As you happen to be present, and have heard the evidence given by Mr. Farr, relative to the disparity between the number of paupers and the number of cases, have you any explanation to offer upon that subject?—I can give an explanation of the number of cases there stated, speaking for myself; I enter them regularly in the book, and the book is sent to the board of guardians every week, and therefore if they are properly entered, it is impossible there can be a mistake; but we may have an order for a person three or four times a year, if he has different diseases and attacks.

15712. *Chairman.*] In your return it appears that the total number of persons treated is 1,229, and the number of cases 2,059; the number of cases therefore appears to be greater than the number of persons; do you attribute that disparity to the circumstance of the same individual having been repeatedly ill in the course of the year?—Exactly so, from having the same person come at different times with new orders, suffering under different diseases; for instance, a man comes to me with an order to-day, and after that he may be well for a month or a longer time; I may not see him for even half a year, and he then brings a fresh order, and that is put down as a fresh case.

15713. Do you think the disparity may be accounted for by the case having gone over from one quarter to another, and that though the same case continued it would be entered every quarter as a fresh case?—No, we do not go in that way from quarter to quarter.

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15714. Mr. *Wakley.*] When an order is given to you for attendance on a pauper, it does not refer to time at all?—Not at all.

15715. Suppose a pauper were affected with disease of the heart, and in consequence of that disease there were dropsy of the extremities, and by the treatment you remove the dropsy, but, the cause of it not having been got rid of, might not the patient disappear from you for a time, and then come back again with some other effect of the original disease?—Yes.

15716. Then that would appear as two cases?—Yes.

15717. Might not that happen as regards the same individual two or three times in the course of the year?—Yes.——(Mr. *Farr.*) I may state that that has led to great confusion in the friendly societies; where the parties generally receive a high rate of pay for a certain time, but if the cases last longer than 12 months the pay is reduced. In the Liverpool society, patients declared off the box before the termination of 12 months, and then came on the box the next year, so that in that way they got the original rate of payment; and the surgeon, in a letter with which he favoured me, says, "One thing is strikingly conspicuous, and that is, that we constantly see the same persons over and over again, and some nearly always with the same disease or diseases of a similar class, whilst we now and then meet with men who triumphantly tell us they have been in the club probably 20 years without ever coming to the surgeon."

15718. What are the evils attending large medical districts?—The consequence of placing so many patients under the surgeon's care is that he cannot examine the cases with sufficient care, though he may have the best intentions. There are generally two ways of examining patients, one a very rapid one and another a very slow one; in the first you merely look at the patient, tell him to put out his tongue; feel his pulse, inquire if he has any pain, and if his bowels are open; order him to be bled; prescribe a purgative or a saline mixture: some half dozen mixtures and pills make the whole stock of materia medica. At the infirmary I before mentioned, I often saw the patients when the physicians and surgeons were absent, and I have often seen a great many in a very short time. The people come from a great distance, and have been waiting, and must be seen in an hour or two, and you see 60 or more in a short time, and by merely looking at them and asking two or three questions, you decide on the cases; I believe every one who acts upon that plan must fall into innumerable errors, and errors of a very serious description. That is not so important in the slight cases as in the severe cases occurring under the care of the parish surgeons, who, if they have private practice, and have to visit a large district, can only devote a few minutes to a case of fever or inflammation. Several new modes have been discovered of determining the nature of diseases, the Stethoscope, and tests of various kinds; all those methods require a great deal of time. Physicians who examine their patients with proper care often spend half an hour or an hour over a case; Louis, a very celebrated French physician, who has done a great deal for medicine, spends at least four hours in examining 40 patients in the wards daily. Celsus, one of the early medical writers, seems to have been aware of this, for he remarks, that "veterinary surgeons, since they cannot ascertain all the peculiarities of the dumb animals, whose cases they treat, resort only to common symptoms; and barbarous nations, since they are unacquainted with the principles of medical science, also attend only to the most general facts; and those who keep large infirmaries, which they cannot attend to with much care, also fly to those general principles." He is combating the opinions of Themisson and others, who contended that all diseases were relaxations or constrictions. In all cases where sufficient time is not allowed to medical men—and that time cannot be allowed where the districts are so large, and the cases so numerous—in the instances I have mentioned, innumerable errors must be committed, and those errors must lead to fatal results in many cases.

Edward Evans, Esq., Examined.

E. Evans, Esq.

15719. Mr *Wakley.*] HOW long have you been the surgeon of the district in which you are now acting?—Seven years.

15720. How long have you been surgeon of the union?—Since the first commencement of it; it is not a union of parishes; there is no union of that parish with any other parish.

15721. *Chairman.*]

15721. *Chairman.*] It is under the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners?—It is.

15722. With a board of guardians?—Yes.

15723. Mr. *Wakley.*] What is the name of the parish?—St. George the Martyr, Southwark.

15724. What is the extent of the population?—About 40,000, the parish altogether.

15725. What is the proportion that you attend?—I attend the paupers of one-half of the parish.

15726. What is the amount of your salary?—A hundred and ten pounds a year.

15727. Do you supply the medicines?—I do; and midwifery cases and all other cases are included, and all operations; there is no exception at all, with the exception of finding trusses.

15728. Have you calculated how many you have constantly on the sick list?—I have from 25 to 30 on the list.

15729. How many visits do you pay on the average in each case?—On the average, when I have an order, from seven to ten visits upon one patient.

15730. What is the amount of remuneration in each case?—A shilling and a halfpenny in each case, attending from seven to 10 days.

15731. *Chairman.*] Were you a medical attendant upon the poor of that district before the new Poor Law was introduced?—I was.

15732. Did you attend the same number of paupers?—Yes, I did.

15733. What was your remuneration then?—My remuneration was 100*l.* a year, and having extra for the midwifery cases.

15734. What, on the average of years, do you suppose the extra for midwifery cases amounted to?—From 20*l.* to 30*l.*

15735. So that you had from 20*l.* to 30*l.* more than you now receive?—Yes.

15736. How were you appointed surgeon in the first instance?—In the first instance I was appointed by the inhabitants.

15737. Was there a vestry?—First of all nominated by the inhabitants, and if necessary to go to a poll, I had three days' poll.

15738. Upon the new law being introduced, did you offer your services?—I did not; the first night that the guardians met they acted under a new regulation, according to orders from the Poor Law Commissioners, and they elected myself as well as my colleague, to be in the same office, and settled the salary without asking us whether we were agreeable to it or no; but, however, we assented to it.

15739. Do you consider yourself very inadequately remunerated at that salary?—Very much so.

15740. Have you much private practice?—I have considerable; I have been 22 years in the same neighbourhood.

15741. Have you much time to spare for private practice?—My time is a great deal occupied by my private practice, as well as the parish practice.

15742. Are the paupers scattered, or very near your residence?—The distance is not very far from my residence; I live almost in the centre of the district.

15743. And you have not to go any great distance?—No; there is one portion of the parish which lies at the distance perhaps of three quarters of a mile, but the other part is close to my house and the workhouse.

15744. Do you attend the workhouse?—I do, alternately with my colleague.

15745. Have you any additional remuneration for that?—Not at all.

15746. Are the poor in the habit of coming to your house?—A great many come; but in winter most of them must be attended at home.

15747. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you any objection to state your belief whether the poor are satisfied or not with the attendance they have received from you?—I have never heard of any dissatisfaction with my attendance; I endeavour to attend them to the best of my ability, and, as far as I can, to give them satisfaction.

15748. Have you heard of any complaints?—No.

15749. Have you received any intimation that there is about to be a change in the appointment of medical officers?—Yes, I have.

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15750. From whom?—First of all, the guardians considered that the parish ought to be divided into four districts, and they have sent that resolution to the Poor Law Commissioners, and the Commissioners have sanctioned it.

15751. *Chairman.*] Then four medical men will be appointed; have they fixed the amount of the salary for them?—No; it was mentioned that each medical man was to have half what I have, which would be 55*l.* for each.

15752. What was the Commissioners' reply to those resolutions?—I saw the answer of the Commissioners.

15753. What was the purport of it?—The purport of the answer was, that that in consequence of the guardians having stated that the parish was very considerable, they would consent that the guardians should have four medical men; but first of all they stated two or three times that they would make due inquiries and consider of it; and, after several times communicating, they have sent a communication to the guardians that they have agreed to the division of the parish into four districts.

15754. Was any statement made in the communication from the Poor Law Commissioners with regard to the salaries of the medical men?—There was no statement whatever made with regard to the salary, but it was stated, that, as myself and my colleague were engaged in November, our contract would not be up till November, that we should go on till then, and the guardians would then do what they liked as to the appointment of four medical men.

15755. If the guardians were now to divide the parish into four districts, and to appoint additional officers, your salaries up to next November would continue what they are?—We are legally entitled to that.

15756. Any reduction that might be made in your salaries in consequence of your duties being diminished could not take place till November?—Certainly, so I understand it.

15757. Are you frequently in the habit of going to the board of guardians?—Whenever they send for me I do.

13758. Are they frequently in the habit of sending for you?—Not very often; when they want to know, with regard to paupers, whether a pauper can be removed from London or from another part, they send for me.

15759. Do you find the guardians very attentive to the relief of the poor?—I cannot say that I can find any fault with them in that respect.

15760. Have you any objection to make to the weekly returns which you have to send in to the board?—I think them very useful, only they increase the medical man's labour very much; but I approve of them, because I think them very useful.

15761. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you consider that there are sufficient grounds for making the alteration that is proposed?—If I was to say that there were not, it might be thought that I was selfish and wanted to keep the parish to myself and my colleague, but before I attended there was only one that attended the parish, and they were all well satisfied with him; but in consequence of the parishioners thinking of dividing it into two, it was so done; and they were perfectly well satisfied till this last time.

15762*. Can you state the cost of the medicines given by you for each case?—I cannot now state the amount per case; but my druggist's bill on the whole during the year is about 50*l.* for supplying the paupers.

15763*. *Chairman.*] About one-half of your salary?—Nearly so.

Veneris, 22° *die Junii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Estcourt.	Mr. Langdale.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Miles.
Lord Howick.	Mr. Wakley.

MR. FAZAKERLEY IN THE CHAIR.

William Farr, Esq., again called in; and further Examined.

William Farr, Esq. 22 June 1838.

15762. Mr. *Wakley*.] HAVE you examined the returns with reference to the contracts and rates of payment to the medical officers in the different unions?—I have. The payment is generally per case or by salary, or on the pauper schedule. The salaries vary exceedingly in different districts without any apparent cause, but the variation in the rate of payment will be best shown by the comparison of the rate per case in different medical districts of different unions; I take Devonshire as an example; in the Crediton Union, district 1, the payment per case is 3*s*.; in the second district of that union the payment per case is 1*s*. 9*d*.; if the number of cases exceed 88, 1*s*. 6*d*.; in the third district it is 1*s*. 9*d*. per case also, and 1*s*. 6*d*. if the number of cases exceed 172; in the fourth district the payment per case appears to be 6*s*.; the difference in the area of the two districts does not account for that difference, for the area of district 3, is 16 square miles, and the area of district 4 is 21 square miles.

15763. *Chairman*.] Do you suppose that any extra charges are allowed in the district in which the payment per case is the lowest?—That does not appear; there is a maximum fixed in all those districts.

15764. Mr. *Wakley*.] That is, a maximum with regard to the aggregate amount of remuneration?—Yes.

15765. *Chairman*.] Is there any thing in the returns which explains this extreme disparity of remuneration in the two districts?—No. In another district, district 5, the payment per case is 5*s*., and if the number of cases exceeds 98, 4*s*.; in district 6 the payment per case is 6*s*., and if the number of cases exceeds 8, 8*s*.; in district 7 the payment per case is 6*s*., and if the number of cases exceeds 98, 5*s*. The maximum fixed to district 1, is 70*l*., to district 2, 18*l*., and to district 3, 30*l*.; to district 4, 50*l*.; to district 5, 30*l*.; to district 6, 35*l*. I now go to Kingsbridge Union; in district 1, the payment seems to be 10*s*. per case, but not to exceed 17*l*., a maximum being fixed; in district 5, 8*s*; in district 7, 7*s*. 6*d*.; in district 8, 8*s*.; in district 9, 8*s*.; a maximum is fixed in all those cases. The area of those districts is small, it does not exceed 15 square miles in any of them. I will next take the Tiverton Union; the workhouse 3*s*. per case without any limitation; Tiverton town, 2*s*. per case; Tiverton parish, without the gates, 5*s*. per case; Halberton, 5*s*. per case; Uffculm, 4*s*. per case; if the number of cases exceed 160, 3*s*. per case; Cullompton, 3*s*. per case; if the number exceeds 226, 2*s*. 6*d*. per case; in the workhouse, 2*s*. 6*d*. per case; in the Bradninch district, 3*s*. per case, and 2*s*. 6*d*. if the number exceed 134.

15766. *Chairman*.] What is it in the Bampton?—Five shillings per case when the number is under 270; in the Silverton, 5*s*; in the Thorverton, 5*s*.; in the Washfield, 6*s*. per case; in the Cleyhanger, 5*s*. per case. The payment per case in Devonshire ranges from 1*s*. 6*d*., which is of course much too low, to 8*s*. and 10*s*. per case; but in nearly all those districts a maximum is fixed. That arrangement does not seem to me to be at all equitable; after the price of payment per case has been once fixed, the total number of cases treated should be paid for at the rate fixed. If the cases are worth 2*s*. 6*d*. or 5*s*. for their treatment, that sum ought to be paid, however numerous the cases may be, the orders being always given by the party who engages to pay the medical men.

15767. But all that is subject to an engagement or contract, into which parties may enter or not as they please?—Yes; but it is an unusual contract; the Government sometimes contract for shoes at a certain amount per pair; but if they

they take 100 or 200 or 300 pairs, they pay for them at the amount fixed by the contract, and they would not fix a maximum and say, if we take 200 or 300, we will pay for only 100.

15768. Is it not the practice in making a contract, either for shoes or any other article, to pay less in proportion to the number, when the total number is a large one?—Yes, but never to pay nothing, when you have to order the article.

15769. Is it not true that where a maximum is fixed, if the cases exceed a particular number, the maximum assumes the shape of a fixed salary?—Perhaps it does.

15770. And therefore, in that case, it is in fact applying the principle of a fixed salary to the remuneration of the medical man, in the event of the maximum being reached instead of the payment being per case?—Yes, but there is no minimum fixed, and if the medical man treats only 50 cases, he is paid for only 50, while if he treats 200 or 300 more than he anticipates, he will not be paid for the additional number.

15771–2. Do you not suppose that the maximum is generally fixed upon an estimate of the number of cases that the medical man will be probably called upon to attend?—Perhaps it is, if it be, the salary should be fixed and the medical man should have the maximum, whether he treated that number of cases or not.

15773. Mr. *Wakley*.] Are you of opinion that medical practitioners would enter into such contracts as you have described, if they were altogether fairly circumstanced with regard to competition?—I think not; I think such a form of contract is quite unusual even in trade. I take Essex, upon the payment per pauper schedule; in the Colchester Union there are three districts; the payment is, for a single person 3*s*.; man and wife 5*s*.; for children under 16, 8*d*. each. A good deal depends upon the state that those persons are in at the time they are placed upon the schedule; if they are in health we know that there would be 25 cases of very severe illness occurring in the course of the year, but there would be 75 cases of every description requiring attendance. Here are several other examples, but this rate of remuneration is utterly inadequate. There are several disadvantages attending the per-case system; one is the unwillingness of relieving officers to grant orders.

15774. *Chairman*.] Have you any experience of that?—Merely from what I have heard, and the fact which I am going to mention, taken from the returns. In Devonshire half the pauper population of the county appears to be attended on the per-case system; in the other half of Devonshire the medical officers are paid by fixed salaries; the annual proportion of the cases to a population of 1,000 in unions where surgeons are paid by salary, is 68. There are 68 cases out of a population of 1,000 treated by the parochial surgeon; in the districts where the surgeons are paid per case the proportion is about 50, or rather under 50. The mortality among the latter cases is much higher; the mortality among the cases attended per case is 59 per 1,000; among the others only 52 per 1,000; 332 deaths occurred in Devonshire among 5,587 cases treated on the per-case system; if the mortality had been the same as among the other cases, only 292 deaths would have occurred, or 40 less than the actual number of deaths recorded.

15775. Lord *Howick*.] Can you give the proportion of deaths of persons attended by the medical officers of the unions, to the population, in the two cases?—I can give the data from which that can be procured?—I have no doubt that the cases that are treated per case are rather of a severer nature. I consider that another important feature in the system of giving orders is, that it renders the relieving officer open to charges of causing death, and those charges have been brought.

15776. Mr. *Wakley*.] You would refer to the fact of the diminished number of orders under the per-case system, as the most prominent of all the evils of that system?—Yes, taken in conjunction with the fact, that the mortality of the cases is high under that system.

15777. *Chairman*.] Have you any other observation to make with respect to the number of deaths that has taken place in a district where the medical remuneration is given per case, and in another district where it is given by salary?—I have just made a calculation, taking the same basis as before—Devonshire,—and I find that in the districts where salaries are paid, the pauper mortality is 35 per thousand on the population; on the contrary, where the per-case system is adopted

adopted the annual pauper mortality amounts to 30 per thousand on the population; consequently the total mortality occurring under the care of parochial surgeons, calculated on the population, is less in the districts in which the relief is administered per case than in those in which it is given by salary; the reason is, that a much smaller number of cases is treated by the medical officer under the per-case system than under the other system.

15778. Would that explain any difference in the total mortality?—This is not the total mortality, but the mortality occurring among those under the care of the union medical officer; the Registrar General alone would be able to furnish the total mortality of the district.

15779. Mr. *Estcourt.*] For what period of time is that?—For the year 1837, in Devonshire.

15780. Mr. *Miles.*] The attendance under the per-case system would be less than under the system of paying a salary to the medical officer?—Yes; I have shown that it is 18 per thousand less.

15781. Might not deaths occur among the pauper population which would appear in the returns to give a larger number where a salary was paid than where the payment was per case?—Unquestionably; that may account for the difference.

15782. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you concluded what you have to say with regard to the contracts and the rates of payment, and the disadvantages of the per-case system?—I have.

15783. Do you consider that the pauper should be supplied with good medicines and efficient medical advice?—I do; I consider that good medicines and good medical advice are more economical than bad medicines and bad advice; and I think that it would be discreditable to the country to supply bad medicines and unskilful advice, and that it would be deluding the sick poor, and preventing them from applying elsewhere. The guardians who entered into contracts upon such terms as rendered it almost certain that the sick would not be properly attended to or supplied with efficient medicines, would be acting the part of the good Samaritan with bad oil. An honest man may pass on the other side; he may refuse relief in sickness, but if he gave any thing he would see that it was of good quality. I heard the other day of a gentleman, rather celebrated for his philanthropy, giving a poor woman a bad shilling, which he accompanied with the remark, that he did not know that it was a bad one. The Committee will, perhaps, think that he would have done better if he had, like Mr. Canning's "Friend of Humanity," given nothing at all. I do not think that the Committee will recommend the guardians of the poor to follow this gentleman's example, and to give the poor bad physic, or physic of suspected value.

15784. By whom do you consider that the classes and cases of persons to be attended in the unions must be determined?—By the rate-payers through the guardians; the guardians must, of course, decide on the classes and on the cases which shall be attended in sickness at their expense.

15785. You would say that the guardians should decide on the classes, but that their officers must decide on the cases; is it not so?—I consider that the guardians must decide on the classes and the cases which should be attended at the expense of the rate-payers.

15786. But you are aware that, in cases of sickness, the guardians themselves do not see the patients?—They employ officers; I consider that they are responsible.

15787. And that they therefore must decide upon the classes of persons for whom orders for relief must be given?—I do. I wish to add, that it should be borne in mind that the great mass of the labouring population have been led to expect a public provision of medical advice, and that it should therefore be withdrawn very gradually, or not withdrawn at all; it is a heavy expense, occurring when the labourer is producing nothing, and when he is suffering and is an object of pity. It cannot lead to the same abuse as relief in aid of wages, or as relief afforded when the labourer is out of work; no one will break his leg willingly, or take physic as an amusement; medical relief has no tendency to increase sickness or the demand for relief that cannot be refused. No one, with a human heart can deny relief to the sick; medical men cannot. If a poor man came to a medical man, and he was conscious that that poor man could never pay him, the medical man must go to him, if it were a case of emergency; such being the case,

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I think the public should provide that man with medical relief, and that he should not be thrown entirely upon the charity of the medical profession.

15788. *Chairman.*] For whom do you think the public ought to provide medical relief?—For all that class of the population which has not a surplus over necessary subsistence to provide medical relief for themselves.

15789. And you think, probably, that the estimate of their need of medical relief should not be made in a niggardly manner?—I do.

15790. And that medical relief may, without danger, be given more freely than any other species of relief?—Yes.

15791. It being necessary to draw the line somewhere, who, in your estimation, should be the judges to determine who are and who are not entitled to medical relief?—The rate-payers, through the guardians.

15792. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you not consider that it is for the advantage of the guardians, and of the neighbourhood in which they reside, as well as for the welfare of the poor, that the medical officers of the unions should be efficiently paid for their services?—Unquestionably; I think that the medical men should be paid for their services. And I protest against their performing the services gratuitously; they are rate-payers, and contribute to the parochial funds in the same proportion as their fellow citizens; it is not just, therefore, to call upon medical men to render their professional services for nothing.

15793. Do you consider that they should be paid by a fixed salary, taking into account the cost of medicines, the journies they have to make, and the time they have to devote to their patients?—I think they should be paid by a fixed salary, but the salary will be necessarily low, because the paupers themselves can afford to pay nothing, and because the rate-payers cannot afford to pay, and will not pay, the ordinary price of medical attendance for the great mass of the pauper population. The salary, however, should cover the expense of remedies and journies, in order that the medical practitioner may not be tempted to send the patient worthless drugs; and to put the places within the reach of the less affluent members of the mdical profeession, whose time is not likely to be so much occupied as to make them overlook their poor patients. When there is a small payment for services, this will sweeten the toil, and the medical man, with a dependent family, will feel that in serving the public he is not running a risk of insolvency, or sacrificing the interests of those committed by nature and society to his care.

15794. Do you think, looking at the number of gentlemen in the profession, and the state of the population of the country generally, that medical practitioners may be procured who are perfectly competent to perform the services, and on the terms you have specified?—Unquestionably; and I think cheap services may be obtained by making the service honourable, agreeable or indirectly profitable. If medical men attached to parochial offices feel themselves oppressed or degraded, this will drive away all but men of desperate fortunes, without any other resources. Medical offices in unions would be made desirable if competitors were appointed from evidence of their skill, kind feeling and assiduous attention to the cases under their care, so that the possession of office may be a public proof of talent and character.

15795. Have you duly considered the inconveniences which arise from the large size of medical districts?—I mentioned that yesterday, and I would repeat to-day, that the salary contributed by a given population will never exceed a moderate surplus over the expenses of medical appliances and travelling; and that, to raise the salary to any reasonable amount, the district must be vastly extended; and in this case the remote poor are placed in a comparatively disadvantageous position; they cannot send for the medical officer, or for the medicine, without great loss of time and great expense; the paupers in the immediate vicinity of the medical man have a great advantage over the paupers situated at a distance; and I should not think that the rate-payers intend that the medical relief should be distributed in that irregular manner.

15796. Do you think it possible to obtain the services of respectable medical practitioners in the unions, except by connecting the duties they have to perform to the poor with the duties of private practice?—I think not; the connection of private practice with parochial practice can alone secure attendance on the low terms that the rate-payers will consent to pay. It is well known that no labour can be performed, and no article produced, that does not furnish the individual with subsistence; but that if, as in the knitting and spinning of women, there

there are other sources of support and revenue, the pay for their services may be below the standard before stated.

15797. Do you find, on an analysis of the cost of medical attendance, that it will be found to involve chiefly the cost of medicine, the price of skilful advice, and the expense of journies?—Those are the three elements of the cost.

15798. What results do you arrive at from investigating those elements?—I wish to remark, with regard to the first, the *cost of medicines*, that it is not the prime cost of medicines, such as is paid at the hospitals and dispensaries, but that it is the expense of medicines weighed and compounded, and the difference is far from inconsiderable, for the druggists charge at least eight or ten times the prime cost of medicines, and do not consider that that more than remunerates them. I will take an instance; the druggists charge five to ten times the original value for their medicines; for instance, quinine is 6*s.* an ounce; two grains is a dose; it appears, then, that the dose of quinine would not cost a halfpenny; the druggist, if he made it into a draught, would charge 1*s.*; that shows that a considerable sum should be added to the prime cost of medicines, in order to get the real value. Medicine compounded is merchandize manufactured; it is the same as raw cotton converted into cloth fit for use. When the medical man retails his own physic, he must have a store of instruments, apparatus, and so on; and he must compound the ingredients himself, or keep another person, an assistant, for this purpose. This head of additional expense is very much reduced by the connexion of parish practice with private practice; the cost price of medicines, of course, remains fixed. The charge for *medical advice* is another element in the price of medical attendance; as the charge for medicine is separated from the two other elements by the druggist, the charge for advice is isolated by the consulting surgeon and physician. You go to a physician; he examines your case, and gives you advice; for this you give him a guinea; he gives you no medicines; the guinea is paid merely for advice. You send for the same physician; he visits you at a distance of seven miles, and charges five guineas; four guineas are added for the time and expense of the journey. The time and expense of visiting patients at their own homes varies with the distance, while the advice and the cost of medicines remain invariably the same wherever the patient may be placed. The price of medical attendance must vary with the loss of time, and the expense of travelling; that is the third element, and that is a variable element; to visit patients in winter and summer, in night and day, in rain and snow, scattered over an area of 100 square miles is a very different thing from visiting the same number of patients in a city, or concentrated on an area of 10 square miles; this element of expense probably increases in the same ratio as the area; so that to visit the same number of patients scattered over 80 square miles, would involve, at least, double as much expense as visiting the same number on an area of 40 square miles.

15799. Have you the means of determining, with any degree of accuracy, the value of medicines, of advice, and journies, for a certain sick population, or a given number of cases in a given population?—I think we have; the cost price of medicines, before they are compounded, may be determined for a given population; for a given number constantly sick; or for a given number of cases. The population is the most difficult to deal with in the present case, not from any difficulty in the thing itself, but from want of data.

15800. Can you found your estimates for those charges upon any of the returns which have been supplied?—Upon some of them, together with others which I have procured from dispensaries, and hospitals and gaols. I will take the medicines per case. And I ought to make a distinction here; the character of cases and the duration of cases varies very much. In the army, it appears from a valuable report that has recently been laid on the table of the House of Commons, drawn up by Mr. Marshall and Captain Tulloch, at the desire of the Secretary at War, that the duration of cases in the army averages about 15 days; but it appears, at the same time, that the admissions out of an average number of 100 soldiers in the year, amounted to about 92 cases, that is, every slight case was counted. The medical officers of the army examine the men; and if they have the slightest malady, they are placed on the sick list, and it is counted as a case, where they remain but a day or two in the hospital; that shortens the other cases. That is the case too in the friendly societies, where the surgeons attend the sick. The numbers attended at the Liverpool Benefit Society, by the surgeons, out of 100 members, were about 75; but then the cases were not sufficiently severe

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to make the men declare on the box, and the number declared on the box was much below that, not more than 32; consequently there were not more than 32 severe cases of sickness; and the severe cases of sickness had a mean duration perhaps of 36 days; while, when all cases are counted, the duration, as in the army, is not more than a fortnight; so that in calculating the amount of medicines per case, it is necessary to determine what kind of cases are treated, whether they are such cases as occur at the London dispensaries, or the dispensaries in the country, where the patients can walk to the dispensary. Those cases are slight cases of course; and they are not such as are scattered over the district which the parish surgeon has to attend. But taking the cases as they occur at the dispensaries, Dr. Bigsby has published a very useful pamphlet upon the subject: he has given a table, and from that it appears that the cost of medicine in 22 dispensaries was 2,826*l.*, and that 26,479 patients were provided for at that cost; consequently that the cost of medicine per case was 2*s.* 1½*d.* Dr. Kay says, that he thinks Dr. Bigsby's calculation included the expense of supplying parties who needed them with trusses; if that is the case, it would of course increase the apparent cost of medicine; and if the patients were not supplied with trusses, it would be rather less than 2*s.* 1½*d.* I do not consider that that is essential; it will make the calculations that follow nearer approximations to truth. Therefore I shall assume all through that the cost of medicine for out-door patients, and at the hospital, is the same as the cost of medicines for the patients at the dispensaries.

15801. *Chairman.*] Do you find that to be the case?—We have no means of ascertaining that that is the case.

15802. You have no means of ascertaining what is the cost of medicine to the out-patients of hospitals?—No; because the medicines are supplied to the hospital in the aggregate.

15803. Mr. *Hodges.*] Would it not probably turn out that the medicines are supplied by dispensaries to the poor at a cheaper rate than they can be bought at by persons practising in the country?—I think it would. I took nine country hospitals, Salop, Chester, Bedford, York, Colchester, Winchester, Salisbury, Aylesbury and Lincoln; some of them for ten, some for five, some for three years; the number of out-patients treated amounted to 25,465; the number of in-patients treated, to 12,963; the number under treatment 365 days, to 1,397; that was the average population of the hospitals for one year; the cost of drugs and other medical appliances, except wine, amounted to 6,898*l.*; assuming that the medicines for out-patients cost the same as at dispensaries, namely, 2*s.* 1½*d.* each, it will follow that the drugs and medical appliances for in-patients, cost 4,180*l.*; and the medicines for each case of in-patients, 6*s.* 5¼*d.* I have taken St. George's Hospital for two years; from the report, it appears that in the years 1835 and 1834, the two years taken together, the number of in-patients discharged from St. George's, was 4,025; the number of out-patients, 9,233; the cost of drugs only, was 2,046*l.*; the cost for leeches and herbs 601*l.*; the cost for bottles, utensils, and sundry small articles, 121*l.*; the cost of brandy and spirits of wine, 301*l.*; the cost of vinegar and chloride of lime, 136*l.*; the cost of surgical instruments, 301*l.*; the total cost of medical and surgical appliances, 3,509*l.* The average number of patients in St. George's, during those years, calculated from the number remaining at the end, or from 3 enumerations, was 270; 9,232 out-patients were treated in the two years, and the prime cost of medicines for them, at 2*s.* 1½*d.*, would amount to 985*l.*, leaving 2,523*l.* for the treatment of 4,025 in-patients; that would be about 12*s.* 10*d.* a case for the in-patients.

15804. *Chairman.*] Do you apprehend that 2*s.* 1½*d.* is the average cost of medicines in dispensaries?—I think so.

15805. I observe, in the statement made by Mr. Yeatman, that he states himself to have examined 15 annual reports of some of the principal dispensaries in London, both charitable and self-supporting, which give a total amount of patients of 6,208, and a total expenditure in drugs of 1*s.* 3*d.* a head?—In drugs alone perhaps, not including leeches and other medical appliances; in the expenses of St. George's Hospital here are leeches, bottles, spirits of wine, and surgical instruments in addition.

15806. Are you not aware that the expense for drugs is very much greater in hospitals than would be the case either in the ordinary practice of the country or in dispensaries?—I think not.

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15807. The Rev. Mr. Oxenden is stated to be a person who has paid a good deal of attention to this subject, and he says that the medical expenses of hospital patients are three times greater than those of out-patients during the same time; and it is also stated by Mr. Oxenden, in a pamphlet published by Mr. Rumsey, that the consumption of drugs in hospitals is confessedly very much greater, from the nature of the diseases treated, than in the same number of cases in private practice?—I should say that the cost per case on in-patients is three times as great as on out-patients; but I think that the out-patients only attend for a short time, while in-patients are attended on an average for 40 days, and, consequently, the expense of the medicine must be four times as great. I will give the general results per case, assuming that the out-patients cost 2 *s.* 1½ *d.*; the cost of in-patients at nine county infirmaries was 6 *s.* 9¼ *d.*, at St. George's Hospital, 12 *s.* 10 *d.*, and at 21 county infirmaries, 11 *s.* 10 *d.*; and that includes wine and trusses and leeches. At the Bristol Infirmary, the cost per case, where we still assume that the cost for medicines to out-patients is 2 *s.* 1½ *d.*, the cost of medicines is 7 *s.* 8½ *d.*, trusses, wine and spirits being deducted. I have another, perhaps less objectionable, *mode of calculating the expense of medicines*, and that is on the average sick population of the hospitals; an hospital contains 100 patients on the average, and the question is, what would be the cost of medicines and medical appliances for a year, after having deducted the sum which we have supposed is expended in supplying out-door patients with medicines? We find, for example, that at the nine county hospitals before specified, on an average population of 100 in the hospital a year, the cost of medicine would be 299 *l.*, that is very nearly 3 *l.* on one patient a year; one patient remaining in the hospital a year, or as one was removed another being put in his place; the same method being applied to the Canterbury Infirmary, where Mr. Oxenden is a very active director, gives for one patient constantly in the hospital 5*l.* 11*s.*, and that has been analysed in this way, the total cost of drugs, pills, pots, leather, skins, and so on, was 3,128 *l.* 10 *s.*, leeches 282 *l.* 5 *s.*, spirits 124 *l.* 5 *s.*, surgical instruments, bandages and so on, 178 *l.* 10 *s.*, so that here the term medical appliances is analysed; and it would be necessary in engaging with the parochial surgeon to inquire which of those articles he was expected to supply, and which the union was expected to supply; but, taking them altogether, it would appear that the average cost was 5 *l.* 11 *s.* In St. George's Hospital, for each of a certain number of patients treated a year, the cost of medical appliances of every description, was 4 *l.* 13 *s.* each person. Another calculation from Mr. Oxenden's statistical returns gives nearly the same results. At the Bristol Infirmary, when trusses, wine and spirits have been deducted, the cost of medical appliances for each of the sick population a year is 3*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* These facts are, I think, sufficiently numerous to show the Committee that the results are not accidental, but real averages of the cost of medicines in the hospitals. The only objection which can, perhaps, be made to these calculations is, that medicines are wasted and expended unnecessarily in hospitals; but I am not aware that that would be borne out; medicines may be procured at a cheaper price, and some of the articles may be more economically used, but I should not say that that would affect the calculations to a great extent.

15808. Mr. *Wakley*.] And the calculation is not so perfect as you would desire, in consequence of your not knowing what is the expense of medicines to the out-patients?—Undoubtedly; but if it was so low as Dr. Yateman has mentioned, a less sum would have to be deducted from the total cost of medicines, and consequently the cost of medicines for one in-patient a year would be increased; it would leave a larger sum for in-patients.

15809. Mr. *Miles*.] Have you struck the average between those hospitals?—I have not, for a reason which I will state; they do not all include the same articles. The returns from the Bristol Infirmary are very accurate; they were forwarded to me by the senior surgeon of that institution; and the cost of medical appliances, exclusive of wine, trusses and spirits, was 3*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; where the cost of trusses has been deducted, it is 3*l.* 10*s.*; now, if trusses were included, it would make it 4*l.*; and we find that at the Canterbury Infirmary, the cost, including trusses and every other article, was 5*l.* 11*s.*

15810. Mr. *Wakley*.] What facts have you ascertained with regard to the returns from the prisons?—The cost of medicine for the prisoners in the Irish gaols is published annually by the Inspectors; and it appears there that the charge for

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one prisoner, during the year, is 7*s.* 6*d.*; on the average of seven years, the medicine for 100 prisoners cost 37 *l.* annually, and if we assume that about four per cent. of the prisoners are constantly sick; that is nearly the proportion in the army; and I do not suppose that the prisoners in the Irish gaols have a greater number of sick amongst them than in the army; it will be found, that the cost of medicine for one person, constantly sick, was about 9*l.* I ought to add here, that I ascertained, although it is not stated in the report, that wine and some articles of that description, are included under the head of medicine in those returns, but if that be the case, the cost of medicine will still remain very high compared with the total sum paid to the medical officers in unions. That charge is, for medicines alone; there are surgeons appointed to all the gaols, and the average salary of 30 medical officers, was 78*l.* 18*s.* each; the local inspectors got 80*l.* 11*s.*, and the chaplains 89*l.* 2*s.*; the cost of medical attendance for the prisoners in the year 1826, was 1*l.*; and in that year the cost of medicines, under the qualification I have before stated, was 17*s.*; making, for the medical attendance and medicines, 1 *l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*; and medical attendance and medicines, for a prisoner constantly sick, assuming that even five in 100 are constantly on the sick list in the Irish prisons, would amount to 37 *l.* 12*s.*; for a pauper constantly on the sick list at the present rate of remuneration, it would be only 2 *l.* 13*s.*; for attending prisoners in the Irish prisons the medical men are paid about 17 times as much as for attending paupers. I pass to the English gaols: I take the year ending Michaelmas 1832, and from that it appears that the population of 80 gaols was, on an average, 10,495; that the sum paid to surgeons was 6,036*l.* in salaries, which generally included the price of medicines; as the medicines are usually supplied by the surgeons of gaols. The number of sick cases attended, is returned to the secretary for the Home Department, and amounted to 8,810*l.* After some slight corrections have been made, it appears that in that year 13*s.* 7*d.* was paid for each case of sickness in the English gaols; that was for medicines and for medical attendance. The cost of medical attendance for the year on 100 prisoners was 57*l.*; the cost of clerical attendance, 112*l.* To show that the salaries paid to surgeons of gaols are not unreasonable, I have compared them with the salaries of the chaplains. The chaplains are, of course, better paid than the surgeons; 112 *l.* are paid for attending to the spiritual wants of 100 prisoners; for attendance on their physical wants 57*l.* are paid. The medical salaries average 79*l.*; the clerical salaries average 151*l.* The chaplains do not supply books from their salaries; while the medical men supply medicines. Medical attendance in a case of sickness in a felon, is 13*s.* 7*d.*; in the case of a pauper, 3 *s.* 3½ *d.* The average number of persons in Dorsetshire gaol and house of correction in 1837, the year that the influenza prevailed, amounted to 125; the infirmary cases of sickness were 100, that is, the severe cases; the slight cases, which I referred to before in my evidence, were 437. The total number of cases treated then amounted to 537; the average number on the sick list was nearly 6¼; the number of deaths, 3; the amount of surgeon's salary, 50 *l.*; the druggist's bill, 81*l.*

15811. *Chairman.*] The druggist's bill in 1837 was much greater than it had been in any previous year?—Yes, on account of the increased number of cases; but that would be in the ratio of the cases; according to that the medical attendance on one prisoner in the gaol amounted to 8*s.* in the year; the druggist's bill for one prisoner in the gaol, to nearly 13*s.*; the druggist's bill, taking all the cases indiscriminately, would amount to 3*s.* per case; the medical attendance to 1*s.* 10*d.* per case. For one person, constantly on the sick list, the cost for medical attendance was 8*l.*; for drugs, paid to the druggist, 13*l.* nearly. According to that estimate, it appears that the amount paid to the druggist, at the ordinary price, is about three or four times the amount paid to the medical man employed under the Poor Law Amendment Act. The Apothecaries' Hall engages to supply the navy with what is called Galenicals at 2*s.* 6*d.* a head; Galenicals are roots and barks, and every thing but chemical substances; for that class of medicines a much larger sum is paid than is paid in some instances for the attendance of persons on the pauper schedule. As the result of a careful examination of all the returns which I have given in, I may state that medicines, leeches, bottles, bandages and medical appliances of every kind would amount to 5*s.* per case, on cases of all descriptions, such as they occur in private practice of perhaps 15 or 20 days' duration; and that with the greatest economy, applying Mr. Chadwick's dietetic principles to the materia medica, the cost price of drugs for medical cases, of 23 days' duration,

cannot

cannot be fixed at a lower sum than 2*s.* 6*d.*; the patient could not be supplied at 2*s.* 6*d.* with the same medicines precisely as are supplied to the rich; but I can conceive that, by various expedients, without withholding essential drugs from the sick poor, the cost for medicines may be reduced to 2*s.* 6*d.*

15812. Are you aware what, by the army regulations, a county surgeon is paid for attendance upon soldiers who belong to recruiting parties or small detachments?—No, I am not.

15813. Are you aware that, by the army regulations, county surgeons, in the absence of a military surgeon, are paid at the rate of 4*s.* 4*d.* per man per annum for the medical care of recruiting parties and small detachments of soldiers, and that when the number is under 50, and the contract cannot be made at this rate, the payment of 6 *l.* a month is allowed; that is at the rate of 6 *s.* per annum for attendance upon each individual?—I am not.

15814. Are you aware that it appears in Mr. Beecher's work on Friendly Societies that surgeons contract for the medical and surgical care of those societies at prices fluctuating between 1*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.* per member per annum?—I am not; but I am aware that medical men attend the members of friendly societies on very low terms; terms that will not allow them to supply the members with efficient drugs.

15815. Do not you believe that the surgeons who attend friendly societies supply good drugs?—They must resort to the cheapest drugs in treating the cases; for instance, in treating ague, which might be treated with arsenic or quinine, they would employ arsenic because it is the cheaper drug.

15816. Mr. *Wakley.*] Is the rate of payment which would be applicable to friendly societies at all applicable to a pauper population?—No, there is a difference, the payment being for members, whether sick or well, in friendly societies; and the proportion between the healthy and the sick is not the same, the sick being proportionably much more numerous among paupers.

15817. *Chairman.*] Are you acquainted with Mr. Yeatman's scheme of remunerating medical practitioners?—I have heard of it, but have never seen Mr. Yeatman's pamphlet.

15818. You do not know whether his scheme of remuneration approaches at all that which has been suggested by the other witnesses who have been examined?—I do not. For each case occurring among seamen, sent to sick quarters, the surgeon is paid 6*s.*; 6*s.* is allowed for attendance upon any person, whose case may not be sufficiently serious to warrant his admission into quarters; no additional charge is allowed, but on the condition of the surgeon sending a report of the case to the physician general of the navy. Fixing the amount paid for medicines at 2*s.* 6*d.* per case; I have assumed that 2*s.* 6*d.* would be a very moderate remuneration for the advice; the patients are visited, on an average, every third day, and as the cases are of 23 days' duration, each patient is seen about seven and a half times; that would allow 4*d.* a visit for medical advice, which makes 2*s.* 6*d.*; and allowing 1*s.* 6*d.* for journies, on the average, taking the country all through, and including the city population, that would make the total sum per case 6*s.* 6*d.*; it was in this way that I arrived at the sum I have mentioned. Mr. Rumsey made some calculations with reference to the rates, and stated the relation that the salary should bear to the expenditure of the poor-rates; this would amount to about seven per cent. In another mode of calculation I have assumed that 2*l.* for one pauper patient sick a year, would be consumed in medicines; that 2*l.* should be allowed for attendance, or for 122 visits. On this calculation there is 1*l.* 4*s.* for journies; that would make five guineas for one person constantly sick; and I may remark that this would check the anomaly at present existing in town districts, and form the basis of a calculation there. This sum, it will immediately be perceived, is utterly inadequate, viewed by itself, as remuneration, although it is nearly double the sum paid under the present system. I have made these calculations hastily, but they will give the Committee some idea of the rate of remuneration. The present amount of remuneration under the Act, in the metropolis, is 1*s.* 5¼*d.* per case; in Lincoln, 5*s.* 4*d.* per case; in Devonshire, 3*s.* 5*d.* per case; in Dorsetshire, 3*s.* 6*d.*; in Cheshire and Lancashire, 6*s.* 1½*d.* per case; in Norfolk, 4*s.* 5½*d.* a case; in Suffolk, 3*s.* 1¾*d.*, calculated on the cures, deaths and those otherwise discharged; in Wilts, 1*s.* 11½*d.* per case; and taking the average of those counties, it is 3*s.* 3½*d.* per case. That does not include the metropolitan districts. The present rate of remuneration, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, amounts to about 3*s.* 3½*d.* per case upon the average,

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taken from those counties; for one patient constantly on the sick list, the medical attendance amounts at present to 2*l.* 13*s.*, and it will be recollected that the cost of medicines in the hospital is much more than 3*l.* We propose that it should be about five guineas on one person constantly sick.

15819. In those calculations which are made by Mr. Oxenden or by Dr. Bigsby, the charge for medicine is generally very much greater than the cost of attendance?—The charge of 4*d.* is not too high for a visit; if the surgeon examines the patient 5—20 minutes I think the rate-payers would be willing to pay 4*d.*

15820. You propose then nearly to double the amount of remuneration?—Yes. In the metropolitan districts the payment per case amounts to 1*s.* 5½*d.*; the payment on the constantly sick, to 2*l.*, and rather under; and in this case, calculating on the constantly sick, it does not matter how short the duration of the cases may be, whether they are three or five days, or 50 days. This is a new mode of calculating the cost of drugs and of medical attendance, but I think that it should be borne in mind by the medical assessor and the medical commissioner, when he is appointed. The scale of 6*s.* 6*d.* a case would require, of course, to be adjusted to peculiar localities, and the scale, I think, should be adjusted to the localities on this principle. We take a metropolitan district where the area is under half a mile, and in that case the cost of medicines would be 2*s.* 6*d.* per case, advice would be 2*s.* 6*d.*, journies would be nothing; the total would be 5*s.*; where the district is under five square miles the cost for medicines would be 2*s.* 6*d.*, the cost for advice would be 2*s.* 6*d.* and the cost for journies 1*s.*; in a district with an area of 15 square miles, the cost for medicines and advice would remain the same, but the cost for journies would be 3*s.*; that would make the remuneration per case 8*s.* I will take an extreme, where the area is under 30 square miles; for medicines and advice the cost remains the same, but for journies the charge is 6*s.*; it would make the cost per case 11*s.* In that case the sum paid for journies is the only variable sum. I give that as an illustration of the principle. If the districts remain of the present size, the rate of payment, 6*s.* 6*d.*, would be utterly inadequate. The salaries cannot be computed on the pauper population, by comparing it either with the army or navy, or benefit societies; because it is a population of a peculiar nature. We know that in the army there are about 45 in a thousand constantly on the sick list; but I do not think that it has been ascertained how many in a thousand of the pauper population are constantly on the sick list, or require medical attendance; that may be done by monthly, or quarterly, or annual enumerations of the pauper population; and if it were once ascertained that 10 per cent. were constantly sick, it would be easy from that to compare the cost of medical attendance on the pauper population with the cost of medical attendance on the soldiers in the army and the seamen in the navy; and I think the salaries might be calculated, if the pauper population was enumerated quarterly or annually. The salaries may be ascertained in the first instance, by the number sick when the enumerations are made, or from the cases occurring in the preceding years among the pauper population.

15821. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you investigated the returns with reference to the present size of medical districts, and the average amount of population in the districts?—The present size, according to the calculation which I gave in yesterday of the medical districts, is 21·4 square miles, and the average population 5,188.

15822. *Chairman.*] Have you any estimate in those calculations of the average distance of the medical man from any part of his district?—I have not.

15823. Have you any statements of the extreme distance?—I gave in several instances yesterday. The proportion of medical salaries to the total sum expended for the relief of the poor, I have calculated at present to be 3·6 per cent., and that is from the third report of the Poor Law Commissioners, in which it is stated, at page 33, that the expenditure for the maintenance and relief of the poor in 200 unions, ending March 25th 1837, was 1,187,346 *l.* From that I have inferred that the sum expended in each medical district was 1,627*l.*; and from other sources that the medical salary paid upon each medical district was 59*l.*; the relation between 1,627*l.* and 59*l.* gives the result of 3·6 per cent. as the sum expended in salaries to medical men. Under the old system it would not be so much; the total expenditure was nearly double 1,187,346*l.*; so that, if the medical relief be fixed at the sum we have mentioned, it would merely make an alteration of three or four per cent. in the number which the Poor Law Commissioners put into one

of

of the columns; instead of saying 49 per cent. reduction, they would perhaps have to say 45 per cent. The size of the districts we propose, would make each medical district comprise about three parishes, and each parish, I suppose, would have to pay about 20*l.*

15824. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you approve of the recommendation that has been given with regard to the size of the districts?—I do, entirely; if the average area were 11 miles, of course, in adjusting that to different localities, a considerable range must be allowed. It would be the business of the medical commissioner and of the medical guardian, to adjust this scale of remuneration, and the distance to every particular locality.

15825. You have heard the suggestions which have been advanced for improving the present system, and you have also stated that you think the size of the district should be reduced to the size you have explained; do you approve of the other suggestions which have been made as to the appointment of a medical assessor or guardian, and the appointment of a medical commissioner by the Crown, so that, in case of any dispute, it should be determined by the highest authority that can be referred to; and also that those persons should adjust the remuneration, with reference to a scale to be fixed by Parliament?—I do approve of those suggestions. About the appointment of medical officers, in the first place, I should say that I suppose that must rest with the guardians; I suppose it will not be restored to the rate-payers; if it were, the rate-payers of a parish should pay for their own sick, if they appointed their own surgeon, so that the medical expense might be brought home to every parish. If the guardians could be assisted in their choice of the medical officer, I think it would be desirable. After that, I think that there should be about seven medical men in every union upon an average; there would be a considerable range in that, of course; I think, myself, that the city districts should not exceed 10,000; that they should be lower; in fact, 5,000—7,000 would be enough.

15826. Are the Committee to understand that you do recommend that a medical guardian, or assessor, should be chosen to act with a person to be appointed by the guardians to regulate the size of the districts and the election of the medical officers?—I think the medical men resident in the union should elect a medical man to communicate with the guardians and to divide the union into medical districts, so as to satisfy as far as possible the future medical officers.

15827. *Chairman.*] What powers would you propose giving him?—I am not aware that I should give him any power but merely the power of carrying that recommendation into effect, and all the communications with the medical commissioner would be carried on through the assessor. The greatest objection to having the districts divided so numerously would be, that they could not communicate with the central authorities; if the medical commissioner had to send for any return to a great number of officers, it would enhance the labour very much, and it would be therefore desirable to have one medical man in the union with whom he could communicate.

15828. Would you propose that that medical man should be paid?—Yes.

15829. By whom?—By the guardians.

15830. That that should be an additional charge thrown upon the rate-payers?—Yes; but, in addition to what I have said, he should draw up an annual sanatory report of the state of the pauper population of the district, to which I should attach very great importance; the medical men of the unions would form boards of health similar to the sanatory boards on the continent; and the importance of that will appear immediately when I state that nearly a fifth of the deaths that occur in this country, appear to occur under the care of the parochial medical officers, for the deaths under the care of the medical officers, out of a population of 1,000, amounted to four in the year 1837; now, the total deaths that occurred in that time, according to a calculation of Mr. Edmonds, would amount to 21; that would be a fifth.

15831. Would it not happen that necessarily a large proportion of the paupers would be old and infirm persons, among whom death would be more frequent than among the average population?—Unquestionably; I do not give this to show that the deaths among the paupers are numerous, but that the amount of medical attendance on the paupers is a very important item, as a fifth of the people of this country go out of the world under the care of the medical officers of the unions.

15832. Mr. *Wakley.*] You mean that the assessor would give an explanation of the circumstances under which a fifth of the deaths had taken place in the

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course of the year?—Unquestionably; he would point out to the guardians any circumstances calculated to ameliorate the physical condition of the poor; and, if possible, the medical officers of the union should be made missionaries of health among the ignorant and pauper classes. The greatest ignorance prevails regarding the proper means of preserving health among the labouring population; they have not the means of taking care of their health to the same extent as the rich, and they are ignorant of the mode of employing the means which are at their disposal, to the best advantage; the union medical officer might instil the laws of health into their minds. That places the importance of appointing a medical guardian in the clearest light; I should give him little power, but merely the power of obtaining information and the power of adjusting, in conjunction with a person named by the guardian, the general rate of remuneration.

15833. *Chairman.*] Will you give your notion of the power which he should have; you say that he should be paid by the rate-payers; upon what scale would you propose to remunerate him?—A moderate sum; it would be considered an honour; to be elected by the medical officers of the union would be an honour aspired to; the scale of remuneration might be low, if he did not attend paupers at the time.

15834. What remuneration would you propose for his duties as guardian?—I would not name a sum.

15835. Who do you think should determine the amount?—The guardians, assisted by the medical commissioner.

15836. Would you give the medical commisssoner an absolute control as to the sum which should be paid to the medical assessor?—In connexion with the Poor Law Commissioners.

15837. What power would you give to the medical guardian; do you wish that he should be present to consult with the board of guardians, and to advise the guardians on all matters connected with the medical matters of the union?—Yes.

15838. If he differed from the guardians, who should have the ultimate power?—The medical commissioner, in cases of mal-practice.

15839. As to the number of medical men, and the size of the districts, and the remuneration of the medical men, what power would you propose to give to the medical guardian?—I think the guardians should leave those points for his determination, with another party appointed by them; that if they could not adjust the remuneration it should be referred to the medical commissioner, in connexion with the Poor Law Commissioners. I should wish to leave the matter to the local authorities if possible, but if they could not come to any determination it should be referred to the medical commissioner.

15840. Mr. *Wakley.*] There are peculiarities connected with the city districts which are not applicable to rural districts; how would you make your arrangements with regard to those peculiarities?—On that account I mention that I should prefer the districts being divided into districts containing a population of 5,000, because if the parochial surgeon had to attend to the general health of the paupers, to visit them, and to state the circumstances that would prevent disease, his district must be small; if he had merely to go in to cases occasionally, his duties would not be so onerous. If he had to take an active part in keeping away epidemics, or pointing out the causes of fevers, and unhealthiness in any particular district, it would be necessary to limit that district within the terms I have mentioned.

15841. Have you been enabled to ascertain why it is that the surgeons of gaols are so much better paid than the surgeons of parochial unions?—I conceive that the consequence of neglecting the prisoners in gaols has been made too frequently evident to allow any parties to overlook that fact; gaol fevers and other diseases have often attracted the attention of Government, and the number of deaths occurring in the gaols are recorded and known to every body; deaths occurring over a scattered districts, and at isolated points, are often forgotten, and make no general impression; and, again, on the other hand, the magistrates appoint the surgeon to the gaols, and the magistrates are not so difficult to deal with as the old overseers were, and they are rather more scrupulous. The overseers attended more to the amount of the salary than to the efficiency with which the duty was performed.

15842. And you think the guardians are afflicted with the same evil?—I think when the guardians are aware of all the facts which have been brought before this Committee,

Committee, they will readily furnish the poor with efficient medical attendance and medicine; I hope that they will. *William Farr*, Esq. 29 June 1838.

15843. Do you think that the payment of the surgeons of prisons is sufficient?—I should think it was not too much.

15844. About fair?—Yes.

15845. If theirs be a fair remuneration, does it not appear that the surgeons of unions are most unfairly dealt by?—Unquestionably.

15846. Can you conceive that the poor when they are sick could be efficiently and properly attended under the existing arrangements?—I am sure that they can neither obtain proper medicine nor proper attendance under the present system.

15847. *Chairman.*] You have gone through a very laborious examination of several returns which were called for by the House of Commons, and which were referred to this Committee?—I have.

15848. You have taken great pains in investigating those returns, and the Committee feel very much obliged to you for the pains you have taken. Have you been assisted in preparing those statements by the officers under the Poor Law Commissioners at Somerset-house?—I have not been assisted, but I have had every facility given me in consulting the returns at Somerset-house, which had not been forwarded to me, from this honourable Committee, by Mr. Wakley; and whenever I have called on Mr. Chadwick I have had access to the returns in the most ready manner.

15849. But the laborious details and calculations which you have described to the Committee have been your own?—They have.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.—Vide* Appendix, p 140.

John Elliotson, Esq., M.D., called in; and Examined.

15850. Mr. *Wakley.*] YOU are physician to the University College Hospital?—I am. *John Elliotson*, Esq. M.D.

15851. And lecturer on the practice of medicine in the University College?—Yes.

15852. You were also, until you resigned the office, physician to St. Thomas's Hospital?—Yes.

15853. You have had, therefore, very considerable experience in the treatment of the sick poor?—Yes.

15854. Have you been furnished with a copy of the evidence which has been given before this Committee by Mr. Rumsey and Dr. Webster?—I have.

15855. Have you examined the recommendations which have been given by those gentlemen with reference to what they consider to be an improved system of management with regard to the poor in the parochial unions?—I examined only part of Mr. Rumsey's evidence; there was a portion marked for me to look at, and I looked at that only.

15856. You may have observed that the recommendations referred particularly to what should be the size of medical districts, to what should be the probable amount of population, to the mode in which medical practitioners should be appointed, to the supervision of their conduct by a medical commissioner to be appointed by the crown, and to the rates of remuneration for medical attendance?—Yes.

15857. Do you consider that the suggestions which Mr. Rumsey has made on those points are for the most part likely to be beneficial in practice?—I think so.

15858. You recollect that he recommended that the medical districts should average about 12 square miles?—I think they ought not to exceed that.

15859. You consider that it would be of great use to the poor, and an accommodation both to them and the medical men, if the medical districts were small, so that the patients might be near the medical officers?—I think it an act of justice to the poor that the medical districts should be as small as possible.

15860. You will also recollect that he recommended, that in the appointment of medical officers the resident practitioners of the union should be allowed to elect a medical guardian or assessor, who should act with a person in a similar capacity, appointed by the guardians?—I think it might be of use; I perhaps have

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have not considered the subject sufficiently, but I think, on first sight, that it might be a good plan.

15861. Do you consider that any other than some kind of professional appeal or reference could be satisfactory to the medical profession?—I think that one reference should be medical, as I think ought to be the case with regard to all medical appointments throughout the kingdom.

15862. A suggestion was also made by that gentleman, and by other witnesses, to the effect that a medical commissioner should be appointed who should be referred to in all cases of dispute, and that his decision should be final?—I should think that that would do very well.

15863. From your experience in the treatment of the sick poor, do you consider that in a rural district where a surgeon has to go a considerable distance to visit his patients, and where the population is thinly scattered, he would receive any thing like a sufficient remuneration, if he were to obtain less than 6*s.* 6*d.* or 7*s.* a case, as the sum named by Mr. Rumsey?—I should think not, certainly.

15864. You consider that that would be rather a low, than a high scale of remuneration?—Yes, I think he ought not to have less.

15865. Probably you will admit that the cases of the poor ought to receive as much attention as those of the rich, and that an examination of their complaints should not be hurried over, or conducted in a slovenly and careless manner?—Yes.

15866. Do you consider that it is derogatory to the profession, and likely to be injurious to the poor, that the office of surgeon in the unions should be let by tender?—Most injurious, and most improper in every respect; it makes the medical man do in that particular, what they condemn each other for doing in private practice, and it must be a temptation to men to attend to the poor far less than they otherwise would.

15867. Should you consider it of importance in reference to the medical officer, that he should have resided in the district for some time before his appointment, and that it should be generally understood that he was a man of good moral character and benevolent feelings?—Certainly.

15868. Do you think that a person who has just received his diploma or license to practise, should be allowed, without any responsibility or efficient medical control, to undertake the care of an extensive district?—No one ought, without medical control, I conceive, however long he has been in practice.

15869. Would you recommend, therefore, that a man should be of some standing in his profession, say two or three years, before he is permitted to take a situation the duties of which are of such a responsible character as those connected with the Poor Law Unions?—I doubt whether he would be more fit in two years, if he had not had a good opportunity of improving himself by practice, than at the beginning; because he would have so little private practice in the first two years, that he would not much improve himself by it; and at the same time he might have forgotten a good deal that he knew when he came from his examinations; a man must learn his profession by experience, as well as by education at the schools.

15870. If he had been in practice, and had acquired additional experience in that way, would he not be more fitted to undertake the medical duties of a union?—He would, but he would not perhaps be so able to devote himself to it as a young man who had no other patients.

15871. But still, he being of some standing, and resident in the neighbourhood, it is likely that he would be better acquainted with the circumstances of the poor, and that his own character would be better known to the inhabitants?—Certainly; and it would be more satisfactory to the poor than to see a person appointed whom they had never heard of before, and who was perfectly a novice.

15872. Do you consider that in densely populated towns and cities a medical practitioner could undertake, with the certainty of discharging his duties efficiently, the care of the poor belonging to a population of more than ten or twelve thousand?—I am sure he could not.

15873. *Chairman.*] Have you had any experience in the parochial management of the poor, with reference to the administration of medicines?—I cannot say

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say experience; I have known a good deal that has taken place in parishes by hearsay, more than any thing else.

15874. Have you ever had the charge of parish poor in London or in the country?—No.

15875. Then the information which you are good enough to communicate to the Committee is derived, not from your own observation, but from what you have heard from others?—Yes, and from what I have read and what I have heard when I have come in contact with medical gentlemen, and when I have gone to see poor people who have interesting cases, with medical men.

15876. Has that been principally in London, or in the country?—Altogether in London.

15877. Have you observed that the poor in London, speaking within your own experience, have been well or ill attended?—Very well attended, those that I have seen.

15878. Do you think that the poor have been generally neglected, as far as medical relief goes?—Speaking of my own district, Hanover-square, I believe they have been attended in the most admirable manner.

15879. You think them as well attended to as the nature of the circumstances would admit?—Yes.

15880. When you make an observation that the poor are entitled to the same care as the rich, you do not mean the Committee to infer that you think it possible by any arrangement to give to the poor the same advantages of medical attendance that rich persons possess?—Rich persons have medical men going to their houses two or three times a day when it is not necessary, though it may be advantageous, because something might occur unexpectedly.

15881. Do you contemplate any arrangement for the provision of medical attendance upon the poor which should place within the reach of the poor the same advantages, with respect to medical attendance, as the rich possess?—Not quite the same.

15882. Mr. *Wakley*.] You disapprove of the system of engaging medical attendance for parishes by tender?—Certainly.

15883. *Chairman*.] You are aware that that is a system which has very long prevailed?—Yes, and I am very sorry to know it.

15884. Has it been generally found to be prejudicial to the profession?—I speak on general principles; it must be a very injurious thing for a professional man to have to undertake professional labour at a rate which is not remunerating to him.

15885. Has that been complained of by the profession?—I have spoken against it all my life, and those who have known others accept of it have shaken their heads with disgust; and again, judging from human nature in general, it must be impossible, I think, for a medical man to do his duty when he has an inefficient remuneration; it must be injurious to the poor; it is heartbreaking work to a man in any profession to work for nothing.

Jonathan Toogood, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Toogood, Esq.

15886. Mr. *Wakley*.] WHERE do you reside?—At Bridgewater.

15887. How long have you been in practice there as a surgeon?—Between 30 and 40 years.

15888. Have you held any public appointment in Bridgewater?—Yes, I have been surgeon to the infirmary 25 years.

15889. Did you attend any number of parochial poor in the district of Bridgewater before the Poor Law union was established?—Yes.

15890. Have you paid considerable attention to the subject?—Yes, I have.

15891. It has been suggested before this Committee, that the size of medical districts should not exceed 12 square miles; do you consider that recommendation a prudent one?—I am perfectly certain that the present medical districts are much too large; I think they ought to be smaller; it is quite impossible the poor can be attended properly, according to the present arrangements.

15892. Have you at all considered what should be the size of the medical districts, supposing the arrangement could be conveniently made; would you say a diameter of four or five miles?—I should think that quite enough.

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15893. You consider that it would be for the advantage of the poor, and for the convenience of the medical practitioners, if the residence of the officer were generally near to those who are sick?—Yes.

15894. It has been also suggested, in consequence of some difficulties that have occurred, that the mode of appointing medical officers should be altered; is the present arrangement in your neighbourhood satisfactory?—By no means.

15895. *Chairman.*] Do you mean not satisfactory to you, or not satisfactory to the neighbourhood?—I think it is not satisfactory to any party.

15896. Mr. *Wakley.*] It has been recommended that whenever any arrrangement is to be made for the appointment of medical officers, a majority of the medical men resident in the union should elect a person to act on their behalf at the board of guardians, who should be styled a medical guardian, or a medical assessor, and that the guardians should appoint an individual, who should act in a similar capacity; that those two persons should be invested with the power to regulate what should be the size of the medical districts, who should be the medical officers, and what should be the scale of remuneration, with reference to some standard to be fixed by Parliament, or by some high authority; and that in the event of a dispute arising between the medical guardian and the referee or umpire of the board, then that all matters in difference should be referred to a medical commissioner to be appointed by the Crown, and that his decision should be final; do you see any objection to those recommendations?—Quite the contrary; I think the system would be greatly improved by it, and that it would give general satisfaction.

15897. It has been also suggested, that when a fixed salary is given, the amount of remuneration per case, with regard to the paupers constantly on the books, should not be less, in a rural district, than 6*s.* 6*d.* or 7*s.*; do you consider that to be a low or a high estimate?—A moderate estimate.

15898. Do you consider that before a gentleman is allowed to be the medical officer of a district, he should be of some standing in his profession, and that he should have resided for some period, say two or three years, in the neighbourhood where he may be appointed?—Yes, I think it would be of great importance, and of great benefit to the poor.

15899. I will now ask you generally, if with regard to the medical arrangements in your own neighbourhood they have been satisfactory, either to the profession or to the poor?—To neither.

15900. *Chairman.*] You say the present extent of the medical districts is inconveniently large?—I think it is.

15901. You speak of those which have come under your own observation?—Yes.

15902. Do you reside at Bridgewater?—I do.

15903. Will you give the extent of any of the districts at Bridgewater?—I believe there is one, which is 17 miles in extent, and includes 14 parishes.

15904. Seventeen miles long?—I believe it to be 17 miles long.

15905. How far do you suppose any part is from the residence of the medical attendant?—I should think more than 10 miles.

15906. You practise privately very extensively in that part of the world?—Yes, I do.

15907. How far does your private practice extend?—I go considerable distances; they are chiefly in cases of consultation, 20 or 30 miles.

15908. But not speaking of extreme cases, in which you may be sent for to give your advice in cases of difficulty; but speaking of your private practice, how far does that extend?—In some rare instances 10 or 11 miles; but generally I should say seven or eight miles would be about the extent.

15909. Do you think that there would be any very great inconvenience in the medical attendants of the poor being limited to the same space as the private practice of the medical attendant?—Yes, I do; I think there would be very great difficulty experienced by the poor in obtaining relief.

15910. If the private practice of the medical man carried him through the whole extent of the district, would not the attendance upon the poor situated within the same district, be comparatively convenient?—Perhaps it would; but there would be other difficulties presenting themselves, in the poor not being able to obtain their medicines without sending a considerable distance for them.

15911. You mean that it would be a difficulty for a poor man to send to the medical

medical man's residence to obtain his medicine?—Very great; first, to send to the medical man, and then send for the medicine.

15912. It has been suggested by Mr. Ceely, that it would be very convenient to the medical men and the poor that there should be deposited in each parish something in the shape of a medicine chest, containing a few of the more ordinary and easily compounded medicines?—I believe it would be a good plan; it was a plan which my son adopted in a union which he had; he rented a house for the purpose, and established a sort of dispensary there.

15913. Do you believe that there would be any great inconvenience, or any great expense, if the generality of parishes were to be provided with some medical chest of that description, to which the medical man in his visits might have immediate access?—I think it would be a great convenience; but it would add considerably to the expense of the medical man; my son was paid 50 *l.* by the union, and he paid 5 *l.* for the rent of the house.

15914. You consider that it would be an arrangement conducive to convenience, and calculated to arrest the progress of disease in some cases?—Yes.

15915. You do not see any great difficulty, conversant as you are with the country, in finding some safe place where a chest of that sort might be deposited?—I always carry something of that kind in my carriage with me.

15916. But where a medical man goes on horseback over the hills, would it not be of still greater convenience, if there were medical chests in the different parishes?—No doubt it would.

15917. What is it that you think would be a reasonable amount of remuneration, and the most convenient arrangement?—I can hardly fix a sum; I should say I can illustrate it by the example of a small parish that I held for 20 years.

15918. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you consider that in that case you were adequately paid?—No; but I had a private practice near that parish, which enabled me to pay great attention to the poor, and I was the communicating link between the rich and the poor, and thereby they were well attended to.

15919. *Chairman.*] Will you give the Committee your notion of the most convenient manner of appointing medical men, and the most equitable terms on which the remuneration might be calculated?—I should think that the medical districts should be made considerably smaller.

15920. And, as far as is possible, consistently with the population of the country, and the number of medical men, the medical relief should be made easily accessible to the poor?—Yes.

15921. What do you think would be the best mode of appointing medical men?—I think the present mode is a very improper one.

15922. In what respect?—I do not think the present electors are judges at all.

15923. You do not think the guardians good judges?—No.

15924. But the appointment formerly was by the overseers or the vestries of the rural parishes, was it not?—No, not in the neighbourhood I have been living in; it was made generally at the vestry meeting by the principal inhabitants of the parish.

15925. Do you consider the principal inhabitants of the parish to have been better judges than the guardians who are elected by the rate-payers of the parish?—Certainly; they would be better acquainted with the character of the professional men.

15926. Why should the inhabitants be better acquainted with the character of the medical men than the guardians residing in the district?—For instance, in the parish I allude to, the people in that parish knew me better than persons living 10 miles off could do.

15927. Do you reside in that parish?—No, but I have practised in that parish for a great many years.

15928. The guardian of that parish knew you very well?—Yes, he knew me better than the guardians of the parishes 10 miles off.

15929. Have you any notion upon what scale, or in what manner, the remuneration should be calculated?—It is a very difficult subject.

15930. Have you formed any opinion as to the manner in which the remuneration of the medical man should be provided?—I really cannot fix a sum, I have never heard a medical man express an opinion that he was properly paid

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for any parish which he undertook; I can state what the parishes in our neighbourhood have formerly paid, and the population; the parish I allude to was about 300, it was three miles distant from me; on the average of 20 years I received 10*l.* a year, including casualties and suspended orders.

15931. And cases of midwifery?—Yes, including cases of midwifery.

15932. Your parochial practice was made convenient to you by having a great deal of private practice in the parish?—Yes, it was.

15933. Were there many rich inhabitants?—No, there were not, except the clergyman's family, and one or two gentlemen and farmers; but it was very convenient to me as I passed through that parish in going to some of my private patients.

15934. Have you any notion of the average number of cases you attended in the year?—I cannot speak to the average; one year I had 30 patients in a month.

15935. Mr. *Wakley*.] How far was that parish situated from you?—Three miles, and in a direct line to my other practice.

15936. What do you charge for a journey to a labourer who is just above the condition of a pauper?—Five shillings.

15937. If you visited him 10 times, would it be 5*s.* each time?—Yes, certainly.

15938. Do you consider it possible, that, including the expense of supplying the medicines, you could be adequately paid at less than 6*s.* 6*d* or 7*s.* a case for the paupers?—No, certainly not.

15939. *Chairman*.] You charge 5*s.* a journey?—Five shillings to farmers, and people of that description.

15940. If you call upon the clergy and gentry of the country is the charge the same?—No, I should charge more.

15941. Do you charge the same whatever is the distance?—No.

15942. If you were called upon to attend a person not a parish pauper, but a poor man who was able to pay for medical attendance, what would you charge that individual?—Five shillings.

15943. You have spoken of a remuneration of 6*s.* 6*d.* or 7*s.* per case, as the scheme upon which the remuneration has been proposed; have you at all considered that scheme?—I have had nothing to do with parishes for many years past; this was the last parish I had, which I gave up about four years ago; and I have had nothing to do with other parishes for 10 or 15 years.

15944. You have not had an opportunity of considering maturely the proposal of 6*s.* 6*d.* or 7*s.* a case, as a reasonable scale?—My former experience enables me to say that it is a reasonable sum.

15945. Do you think it an equitable sum upon the whole?—I should think it was a fair sum.

15946. When you speak of 6*s.* 6*d.* or 7*s.* a case, do you mean that that should include the whole remuneration of the medical man, for whatever cases of paupers he might be called upon to attend?—The paupers of the parishes, certainly.

15947. Whether the pauper were what might be called among the permanent poor, or whether it were a casual and accidental case of a poor person receiving parochial assistance?—I think they have been generally paid somewhat higher.

15948. You say that your remuneration was about 10*l.* a year for the parish which you attended; were you paid differently for the casual poor and for the fixed poor?—That included the whole; it was the average of 20 years; my salary was six guineas or seven guineas a year; I think seven guineas a year my salary was, and several years it did not amount to more than seven guineas; but one year there was a bad fracture of the leg; and another year there were some midwifery cases, and so on.

15949. Mr. *Freshfield*.] Is your proposition that, at the end of a quarter, or at the end of half a year, the number of cases attended should be calculated at 6*s.* 6*d.* each, and that you should receive the aggregate amount, or is it that there should be a mode of calculation at the commencement, ariving at a certain result, and that that should be a fixed salary?—I think it should be a fixed salary for the fixed paupers.

15950. You speak of the paupers; what list would you take for the purpose of your calculation; all the persons who are considered fixed paupers at the commencement of your engagement?—Yes, who receive parochial relief.

15951. Your

15951. Your remuneration would be prospective, upon that calculation?—Yes.

15952. Whatever might be the amount, calculating 6*s.* 6*d.* multiplied upon the number of fixed paupers, you would in that include cases of midwifery and accidents?—Yes.

15953. Would you propose that your engagements should be renewed from time to time, from year to year, or from one quarter to another?—Yes, I think it should be.

15954. You would not be satisfied with a calculation made at the commencement of the year 1839, and that that should continue for 1840, 1841 and 1842?—I see no objection to that.

15955. Without any reference to the increase or decrease of the number of fixed paupers?—If they were paid for in the same rate I should not object.

15956. But they would not be; you must prospectively ascertain who are the fixed paupers?—I understand that they were to be paid for per case.

15957. Mr. *Wakley.*] I will read the recommendations of Mr. Rumsey; he is asked, "What would you recommend should be the payment per case for attendance upon the casual paupers?" and his reply is, "Ten shillings would be a very fair rate of remuneration." Then he is asked, "And 6*s.* 6*d.* per case for the permanent paupers?" and he states, "A remuneration approaching to that, or which should bear a relation to it." Mr. Rumsey recommended that the payment should be made by a salary, fixed with reference to the attendance that a certain number of paupers had required in a preceding number of years, striking the average?—Yes, so I understood it.

15958. But that the salary, upon a fair calculation, should be presumed to to come up to 6*s.* 6*d.* a case?—Yes.

15959. If there were not half that number in the next year the salary would not be altered?—No, so I understood it.

15960. Then he stated, with respect to those that might become sick, not upon the regular list, there should be for every case a payment of 10*s.*, so that there would be, as regards those cases, no aggregate amount of salary, but a payment per case?—Yes, so I understand; precisely upon the same plan as the parishes formerly were; the attendance upon the casual poor was greater than the attendance upon the regular paupers.

15961. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Supposing the number of fixed paupers who are to be attended in any year exceeds the average of the former year, upon which the salary has been calculated, in what manner would you propose that a remuneration should be given for attendance upon them?—I should think they should be paid at the same rate, 6*s.* 6*d.* the fixed paupers, not the casual paupers.

15962. For instance, supposing the salary to be 10*l.*, calculated at so many 6*s.* 6*d.*'s, say of 50 paupers sick, and supposing that 60 paupers should be sick in any one year, you would propose that ten 6*s.* 6*d.*'s should be added to the ordinary salary?—Yes.

15963. Mr. *Freshfield.*] If it should be found that the list of sick paupers in the second or third year was very much reduced, would you propose to reduce the amount of remuneration?—I should think the way would be not to make the contract for more than a year, to renew the contract every year.

15964. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do you think it is of importance that the attendant on the poor of a neighbourhood should also be the attendant upon the rich of the same district?—I think the poor would be much better attended under the circumstances.

15965. If the medical man be made the medium of communication between the poorer and the richer classes of society, you think that it might be productive of great benefit to the poor in cases of sickness?—I think so.

15966. *Chairman.*] It would lead to the exercise of charity by the rich towards the poor?—Yes, it would.

Marshall Hall, Esq. M. D., called in; and Examined.

15967. Mr. *Wakley.*] WHERE do you reside?—In Manchester-square.

15968. Are you practising as a physician in London?—Yes, I am.

15969. Are you a lecturer on the practice of medicine?—Yes, I am.

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15970. How long have you been in practice altogether?—I have been in practice ever since the year 1816.

15971. Where did you practise as a physician before you practised in London?—I practised nine years in Nottingham.

15972. Had you any experience in the treatment of the sick poor in Nottingham?—For a short time I was physician to the St. Mary's Infirmary; and for a short time physician to the General Hospital.

15973. Do you consider that an attendance upon the sick poor by a medical practitioner involves a severe moral and professional responsibility?—Indeed I do.

15974. Do you consider that the office of medical practitioner to the poor in the unions, or in the medical charities, or public institutions of any description, should be let by tender?—Certainly not; I consider that offers by tender are derogatory to the medical profession.

15975. Is much practical experience necessary for the efficient performance of the duty of attending on the poor?—Certainly.

15976. Generally speaking, does not the responsibility devolve entirely upon the medical practitioner?—I should say entirely.

15977. Before a man is appointed to extensive medical districts in the unions, of what standing do you think he should be in his profession?—I think, after his examinations, he should be two years in the profession, two years in actual practice.

15978. Do you consider that it is of importance that he should be acquainted with the habits and condition of the poor in the district in which he may be called upon to practise?—Yes, I think it important that he should be acquainted even with the locality, that that should involve one of the two years.

15979. Are you of opinion, with the last witness, that it is likely to be of great advantage to the poor, when the practitioner attends both on the rich and the necessitous of the same neighbourhood?—I did not hear the evidence of the last witness; but I am certainly of that opinion.

15980. Could a medical practitioner, if he were improperly appointed to his office, and if he had not duly considered the weight of responsibility which devolved upon him, appear to discharge his duties, and yet, in point of fact, neglect them?—He certainly might pay visits to the patient without ascertaining the nature of the disease; he might be exceedingly attentive to the patient, and he might not, as we say, diagnosticate the disease.

15981. Have you published a work specially on the investigation of disease?—Yes, I have published a work on Diagnosis.

15982. On the mode of ascertaining and distinguishing diseases?—Yes; that is the first step in the practice of physic.

15983. Do you consider that a mere cursory and hasty investigation of medical cases is capable of fortifying the mind of the practitioner with reference to the remedies that ought to be adopted?—Certainly not; I think that the most arduous duty we have to perform is that of distinguishing the disease and its complications.

15984. Have you read the recommendations which have been given by some of the witnesses with reference to what they consider would be an improvement on the present system of medical tenders in the parochial unions?—I have read some papers on the subject; I have read a paper by Doctor Yelloly, and the evidence of Mr. Rumsey, and, generally speaking, I should say that I am of the opinion of those gentlemen.

15985. As a member of the council of the British Medical Association, probably you are aware of the information which has been communicated to that body on this subject?—I am.

15986. Are you, in consequence of the investigations which have been made, disposed to recommend, with some of the other witnesses, that the size of the medical districts should be very much reduced?—Most certainly, I should say, from all I have heard and seen in my country practice.

15987. And from what you know must be the time occupied by a medical man in the treatment of disease?—Yes.

15988. Do you consider that a district, the diameter of which was four or five miles, would be too large?—I should say that that would be a proper sized district for a medical man to attend well.

15989. *Chairman.*] Would not that vary with the population?—I am supposing the population to be thinly scattered.

15990. Mr.

15990. Mr. *Wakley*.] As a general rule you would recommend that the districts should be small, and that, wherever it could be accomplished, the residence of the practitioner should be near the centre of the district?—Yes, I should say that his residence should be in the centre of the district, and that the district should be from 12 to 16 square miles.

15991. In electing officers, and establishing the rate of remuneration, and the the mode in which the duties should be performed, do you consider that any arrangement could be made which would be satisfactory to the profession, unless reference could be had to a professional authority?—I should think not; certainly not.

15992. Supposing a professional authority to be created, would you recommend that a medical commissioner should be appointed?—To say the truth, that was an original idea of my own, before I had heard that it had been suggested from another quarter, and therefore I must be of that opinion.

15993. From investigation of all the circumstances, is that opinion firmly impressed upon your mind?—Most decidedly.

15994. Do you consider that where extensive and important medical duties are involved, and questions of practice arise which admit of much dispute, that it is possible that a satisfactory adjustment could be made except by professional authorities?—I should think not; certainly not.

15995. Do you deem it of importance that the medical men, in holding their offices in the unions, should be satisfied with the nature of the duties which they have to execute, and with the amount of remuneration?—I think it highly important to each individual, I think it important to the profession at large, but especially I think it important to the poor, who are the objects of our care, that such should be the case, that the medical man should be well satisfied with the duty which he has undertaken to perform, in every point of view.

15996. Have you directed your attention to the number of inhabitants, the poor of which you consider might be conveniently and efficiently attended by a single practitioner in crowded cities and towns?—I can only form a general opinion upon that subject; but I think the medical man who undertakes to attend the poor amidst an ordinary population of 10,000 or 12,000 would have a sufficient duty upon his hands to perform.

15997. *Chairman*.] That would depend upon the class of inhabitants who lived in the district or the town, would it not?—I am supposing that the population is of an ordinary kind, neither exceedingly rich nor exceedingly poor.

15998. Mr. *Wakley*.] Does not the successful diagnosis of disease require great sagacity?—Both the diagnosis of disease itself, and, as I should say, the diagnosis of the complications of disease: I will give an example; the other day I happened to be summoned to a poor man who laboured under inflammation of the brain; he was neither perfectly sensible, nor was he perfectly stupid, nor was he perfectly delirious; I saw pain expressed in the countenance, and I said "there is something more here than a mere case of disease in the head;" I placed my hand upon the lower part of the abdomen, and there I found the bladder enormously distended; I suppose that that had been the case for several days previously; had it been the case for another day, I suppose the bladder might have burst: I give that as an instance of what I mean by the importance of detecting the complications of disease; the disease was in the head; the cause of death would have been in the bladder; I suppose the rest is obvious to every one; the man would have lost his life, not because the disease was not detected, but because the complication of disease was not detected, for the detection of which a careful examination is required every day.

15999. If it had not been detected, the consequences would have been fatal?—The man would have died of a mortified or burst bladder.

16000. What time, if you can make any calculation upon the subject, would you say that the examination of 10 ordinary cases of disease would require?—If the patient has been seen before, I should think that each case would require daily 10 minutes' examination, supposing it to be serious; supposing it to be fever; but if it be a new case, I should say that 20 minutes is the least that ought to be devoted to it.

16001. *Chairman*.] You have attended hospitals and infirmaries, have you found, generally speaking, that the cases required that space of time during your practice in those institutions?—I have attended the first clinical physician of this

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or of any age or any nation; and I observed that when a new patient came under his care, he devoted 20 minutes to it.

16002. Whom do you mean?—I mean Monsieur Louis, of Paris.

16003. From your knowledge of the general practice in the hospitals and infirmaries either in Nottingham or in London, do you suppose that that space of time is generally devoted to the examination of the cases?—I think it is; I state the simplest case to be that of fever; I think every time we visit a case we ought to examine the head, the chest, and the abdomen.

16004. But you have described yourself to have attended hospitals and infirmaries; have you observed generally in your own practice, or in the practice of other professional men who have attended those institutions, that as long a space of time as you have described is given to each case?—I have gone round with some physicians, and have been perfectly confident that they did not understand the case, and I have gone round with others, and have been confident that they did their duty to their patients; and a man who wishes to do his duty to his patients, must devote 10 minutes on the second examination, and 20 minutes upon the first examination, supposing the case to be serious.

16005. How many cases have you observed, coming under the consideration of any physician in the hospital in one day?—It is difficult for me now to fix upon numbers; I should say that 30 would be a very small number.

16006. Of what hospital are you now speaking?—St. Mary's, at Nottingham, and the General Hospital at Nottingham.

16007. What time does the physician generally remain in the hospital?—Out of 30 cases there may be only five receiving the attention that I am speaking of; those would require nearly an hour, so that I suppose the physician ought to remain something more than an hour.

16008. Five cases of 20 minutes each?—Five cases of 10 minutes each, and say a new case of 20 minutes.

16009. In an hospital of that description, is it not probable that there must be very frequently more than one new case?—Yes; and then it would require a proportionately greater length of time.

16010. But is it consistent with your experience that the physicians who have come under your own observation do, in their practice, give up the time to each case which you consider necessary?—If I speak of the medical attendance in the hospitals in England, I should say that it is shamefully deficient.

16011. You do not consider then that that time is given to each case?—I do not; it very often happens that the visit is not paid; and it very often happens that when a visit is paid it is paid in such a hurry and bustle that it is of very little benefit.

16012. Then you do not consider that, in the hospital practice of England, the requisite time is given?—I am sure it is not.

16013. Take the instance of a physician in large practice in London; how many visits does he make in the course of the day?—It is pity that a physician in great practice in London does not give up hospital practice to others.

16014. But how many cases do you suppose that such a person may visit in the course of the day?—I have heard of a physician running up-stairs and saying I am so and so, and down-stairs again, having been in the patient's room for only two minutes. I am speaking of a physician of great character and great attainments, and without mentioning any particular individual.

16015. Supposing you to allude to any eminent physician, practising in London, how many cases do you consider he might attend in the course of the day?—I do not suppose a physician ever sees a vast number of cases, perhaps 20 or 30 in the day; and I remember an expression of the late Dr. Baillie, when he gave up his private practice for consultation practice, he said, "Thank God, I can now give a person a civil answer to a question;" that shows his feeling upon the point.

16016. Take a surgeon or a physician in extensive private practice in London; what are the habits of his life; does he not see a good many private patients at his house?—Yes.

16017. How much time do you suppose he devotes to the consideration of those cases?—I should think he ought, at the very least, to devote ten minutes or a quarter of an hour to each case.

16018. Do you suppose that he does so?—I cannot speak of others, but I can speak of my own practice; I should consider it very shameful if I did not give as much time as that, and a little more.

16019. How

16019. How many do you see at your house?—My usual practice is to see poor patients from nine to ten, and it often is till half-past ten.

16020. How many do you see in that time?—Six or eight or ten; but my plan is usually to investigate the case, and to write notes, because I have an object in it.

16021. Mr. *Wakley*.] Do you consider that, after sufficient investigation has been made, in the first instance, into the disease of a patient, who is lodged in the bed of an hospital, the patient being there subject to the discipline of the hospital, and to the observation of nurses and daily attendants, less time would be required daily in seeing such an individual than in visiting the poor who may be sick at their cottages?—Certainly; the cases in hospitals are much clearer than cases in private cottages; you know what has been done; you have an intelligent nurse to speak to; but you have no intelligent person to speak to in private cottages.

16022. Do you think the practice of appointing medical officers by tender, as a means of providing medical attendance on the poor, likely to be productive of benefit to any party?—I should say, certainly not.

16023. Do you consider that any medical man should be appointed to attend upon the poor of any district, unless he had an established character for humanity and benevolence?—I should say that no student fresh from the schools ought to be so appointed; that he ought to have been in the profession at least a couple of years, and I think one year in the locality, so that his character might be known.

16024. You would condemn then, resorting to tenders and the introduction of strangers into the neighbourhood?—Most decidedly.

16025. Do you consider that the poor, as a body, need, in acute diseases, as much attention as the rich?—I think that they require even more, for special reasons; it is more difficult to ascertain the disease; it is more difficult to get intelligent information, and therefore it comes to be more a case of what I call pure observation; a poor person is to me like an infant; I have to examine the different cavities of the body to ascertain where the disease is, for the information I obtain is as likely to mislead me as to lead me right.

16026. Besides, is it not, from the poverty of the poor, more difficult for them to obtain those appliances towards facilitating a recovery which are so completely at the command of the rich?—Certainly.

16027. Are not the poor more liable to contagious diseases than the rich?—Yes.

16028. Do not fevers, when they occur among the poor, require more attention than when they occur among the rich?—Indeed I think they do, much more; the mere circumstance of cleanliness is so important, that many a patient dies from want of being kept perfectly clean.

16029. Do not such diseases, if they occur among the poor, entail much anxiety and frequent visits from the medical practitioner?—Yes, they do indeed.

16030. Could acute diseases be safely or satisfactorily treated at a great distance from the residence of the medical attendant?—I think not.

16031. Could attendance, under the circumstances I have stated, be conducive to the welfare of the patients or to the credit and advantage of the practitioner?—Certainly not.

16032. Would it be desirable to render the medical appointments more conducive to the advancement of science, more satisfactory to medical men, and more beneficial to the poor, than they are rendered at present?—I think that would be very important.

16033. Do you consider that those improvements can be accomplished by reducing the size of the medical districts, by appointing the medical officers in the way you have stated, by establishing an efficient medical control over the medical officers, and by parliament fixing on some scale of remuneration which might amount to something like an equivalent for the medical services afforded?—I think those circumstances, together with the regular returns, would be the means of accomplishing such objects; I think the remuneration should be such as no man should be ashamed of accepting, and such as no set of men should be ashamed of proposing.

Sir *Astley Cooper*, Bart.

Sir *Astley Cooper*, Bart., called in; and Examined.

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16034. Mr. *Wakley.*] YOU received a copy of some evidence which was given before this Committee on Tuesday last?—I did.

16035. Have you seen in that evidence any suggestions for a plan relative to the treatment of the poor in the parochial districts?—Yes, I observed some suggestions; but I should rather, if you please, go to any particular point.

16036. With regard to the size of the districts, do you consider that they should be so small as to bring the residence of the practitioner very near, or as near as possible to the places of abode of the sick poor?—Certainly; and if I may add, I have known great evils arise from the districts being too extensive.

16037. *Chairman.*] Are you speaking of a district that has been formed recently, under what is called the new Poor Law?—Yes; the district is about nine miles long by about four miles wide; and the evils arising from that source are these, that if a poor woman, for example, has her child taken suddenly ill with acute disease, she is obliged to go to the distance of nine miles to a medical man; he may not be at home; he may be in the opposite direction; it is a long time before his advice can be procured; but there is another evil in that, it is a still longer time before the medicine can be procured, and it would be a very desirable thing—I wish to state here that I am quite a friend to the new Poor Law; I think it has been a great advantage to the country, and therefore I do not hesitate to give an opinion at once upon that point—but I think that it is a very desirable thing that places should be appointed, even in smaller districts, in which medicines could be immediately procured; that the person who visits, the relieving officer, or some other individual, should have in his house, within the reach of the medical attendant, those ordinary medicines.

16038. It has been suggested to the Committee by one or two of the witnesses who have been examined in this inquiry, that it would be convenient to have small medicine chests, with the usual medicines, in every parish, or in every one or two parishes, that they might be within the easy reach of the medical man, in making his rounds through his district; would you think that desirable?—Very desirable; and with respect to the extent of the district, I would say that it has occurred to me that a diameter of five miles would be a very good general rule.

16039. Mr. *Wakley.*] In recommending that medicines should be located in that way, probably you would think that too many depôts were made if there were a medicine chest in each parish, deposited in some central situation?—There should be a ready access to the medicines.

16040. In the appointment of medical officers it has frequently happened that the offices have been let by tender, do you think that system desirable?—I think it is most horrible.

16041. And it has happened that occasional dissatisfaction has arisen from there being no professional authority to appeal to; the medical men seemed to dispute the propriety of submitting their interests to the control of the board of guardians where there are no persons who seem to understand what is due to the interests of the profession; it has been proposed that where a union is formed, or any new arrangements are made with regard to the union, the medical practitioners of that union, or the majority of them, should be allowed to appoint a medical assessor, or a medical guardian, to act on their behalf with the person chosen by the guardians; and in case of dispute, every point of difference should be referred to a medical commissioner to be appointed by the Crown; do you, from the consideration which you have given the subject, approve or disapprove of such suggestions?—I hope that I shall not be considered as wanting in respect in any thing which I say upon the subject; but I do think it is quite an absurdity for any of the members of the boards of guardians to attempt to form an opinion upon a medical case; we may rest assured that if it were presented to two or three medical men, there must be a slight difference of opinion; but how is it possible for a man who is uneducated in the profession to form a judgment of the proper treatment of the case, or what it requires?

16042. You are of opinion that it would be satisfactory to the profession, and useful to the poor, if there were some medical guardian appointed who should be referred to in matters of that kind?—Certainly.

16043. You have had a long experience in attending upon the poor in hospitals, have you not?—Yes.

16044. And, probably, from having resided many years in the country, you are acquainted

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acquainted with what has passed in the rural districts with reference to the duties of medical officers?—There is a dispensary in that part of the country in which my house is, an infirmary which was instituted by myself and the clergyman; and therefore I have had an opportunity of seeing a good deal of the diseases of the poor in the country.

16045. One point of difference and of constant dispute between boards of guardians and medical officers has been the rate of remuneration; one has made a demand which has not been complied with, and frequently the threat of bringing in some stranger seems to have induced medical practitioners to take a sum with which they have not been at all satisfied; it has been suggested before this Committee that there should be, instead of tender, a fixed salary per case, with reference to the whole population, and that the sum which the fixed salary should produce should not amount to more than 6*s.* 6*d.* or 7*s.* per case in the year; do you consider that a high or a low estimate?—It is exceedingly difficult to make a calculation; I am trying to make it; it depends so entirely upon the numbers that are attended.

16046. It also depends upon the duties that are to be performed in the rural districts; a great portion of the medical practitioner's time is employed in making the visit; the cost of medicine in all cases is the same for a certain number of patients, and the cost of advice; it has been calculated in each case that four visits are paid to the patient specially, and that two, three or more may be paid incidentally; supposing those elements to be correctly stated, or approaching any degree of accuracy, do you consider that 6*s.* 6*d.* or 7*s.* per case would amount to a fair remuneration?—I do not know what would be the sum which that would produce.

16047. But, looking to the labour in each individual case?—I should have thought that 7*s.* was about the sum.

16048. Do you consider it of importance that the medical practitioner in attendance upon the poor should be a man of some standing and residence in the district and that he should also be in attendance upon the rich?—You ought to look out for the same man to attend upon the poor as you would be satisfied with in your own family; make the case your own, and you are sure to be correct.

16049. You do not think it advisable to introduce strangers to practise among the poor if there are resident practitioners who are willing to take the offices?—If a very clever man comes into that part of the country very highly recommended, I see no reason why you should exclude that medical man, even supposing there were resident practitioners there; but if a medical man comes into the district, and says "I will attend for 50*l.* where the resident practitioner has offered to attend for 100*l.*," there can be nothing more horrible or more degrading to the profession, or more injurious to the poor.

16050. Considering the highly responsible duties which the medical practitioners in unions have to execute, and especially with relation to surgery, do you think that they should be appointed without having previously undergone an examination in surgery before some competent authority?—I should wish to state the impression upon my mind, after reading the evidence; the fact is this, that the matter will be very easily settled if the districts be made smaller, but if the districts be made with a diameter of about five miles, which would give a circle of 15 miles, you would have a district a medical man could very well command, and that the poor would find convenient; and, in the second place, you may do away with a vast deal of difficulty only by stating this, that no man shall be permitted to practise his profession, or to be appointed to a situation of this kind, unless he has passed the ordeal of the Apothecaries' Hall, unless he has the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, and unless he has undergone an examination before a midwifery board; those are the three things which are absolutely essential; and if you have small districts, and the men who are elected are elected upon those grounds, depend upon it that the poor will be well attended.

16051. *Chairman.*] You think that by strictly attending to the conditions you have mentioned, there is reason to believe that competent medical attendance would be provided for the poor?—You may be sure of it.

J. P. Kay, Esq., M.D.

22 June 1838.

James Phillips Kay, Esq., M.D., called in; and further Examined.

16052. *Chairman.*] HAVE you heard the whole of the evidence that has been given by gentlemen connected with the medical profession?—I have heard the chief part of it; I did not hear the evidence of Mr. Ceely; I heard the evidence of Mr. Rumsey and Dr. Webster, and the gentlemen who have been examined to-day.

16053. Have you read Mr. Ceely's evidence?—I have not; it has been only printed to-day, and I have not had an opportunity.

16054. The Committee would be glad to hear from you what is your impression, and any further recommendation which you may wish to offer?—I must say, that I think many of the suggestions are exceedingly reasonable; I think it is very reasonable to propose to the Committee that the persons who are in the receipt of out-door relief, and certain other persons who may be deemed unavoidably indigent, such as widows with children, unable to work, shall be included in the list of persons entitled to medical relief without any orders proceeding from the parochial authorities, the relieving officer or the board of guardians, and that the cost of administering that relief shall be estimated at a certain sum per head upon that pauper population, so as to afford an adequate remuneration per case; I think it is also very reasonable to propose that the cases of casualty occurring beyond that list shall be paid for upon a different rate of remuneration, because they would generally be severer cases than those included in the list.

16055. They would be generally cases of severe accident or acute inflammation?—Yes; then I do not find any great difficulty as to the amount of remuneration proposed per case, reported *bonâ fide*; I believe, and indeed I know, that in many unions that amount of remuneration is greatly exceeded at present.

16056. You are speaking of the amount upon the permanent list?—Yes; and the average estimated amount is reduced, from the imperfect state of the arrangements in other unions, or from local circumstances, which render it possible that in those unions a less amount of remuneration, as an exception to the rule, should be given. As respects the amount of payment for casualties, I am not so well prepared to state my opinion to the Committee, upon the recommendations which have been proposed by the medical gentlemen who have been examined. I think that it would be well for the Committee to consider what arrangements should be made for the medical attendance upon the workhouse, which has not been apparently included in the suggestions; that subject ought to be separately considered, and will include different elements of calculation from those that have been submitted to the attention of the Committee; but I think that the whole of that question might be greatly simplified, and the efficiency of the medical arrangements in the workhouses might be greatly increased, provided the drugs for the treatment of cases within the workhouse, were supplied by the board of guardians, which I think would be a very great advantage; it might also possibly be right that certain instruments which are used in severe cases and cases of emergency should be supplied to each workhouse throughout the country, as for example, a tourniquet, forceps, and other instruments of a similar kind, which I need not enumerate; all then that would remain to be estimated, would be the value of the advice of the medical officer in the cases which are treated in the workhouse.

16057. How would you propose that the boards of guardians should supply themselves with medicines for the workhouse; what precautions would you take that their selection of medicines should be good?—I think that arrangement ought to be made a subject of special regulation by the Poor Law Commissioners, who should direct the guardians to procure the drugs directly from some source which would ensure unadulterated supply.

16058. Mr. *Wakley.*] Do not you think that the most satisfactory course would be to allow the medical man to choose the firm whence the drugs should be purchased?—I confess I think that would be better done by the Poor Law Commissioners, because I have no doubt that they could enter into such a contract for the supply of workhouses throughout the country as would greatly diminish the cost; no individual board of guardians could make a contract on such favourable terms as the Poor Law Commissioners, if they contracted for the supply of all the workhouses.

16059. Where would be the security for good drugs being supplied?—The security would be in the publicity of the Commissioners' proceedings; they would

would act under the best advice, and the source from which the drugs came, and the persons with whom the contract was made, would of course be known to every body.

16060. But you are aware that in the composition of vegetable extracts and powders the adulterations are such that there are no means of detection?—Certainly; and that would be a reason for making arrangements with wholesale houses, who could not be suspected of adulterating their drugs.

16061. Do not you think that the medical man, if he did not supply the drugs himself, would be constantly saying, "My remedies would be more successful if you had not bought inefficient medicines?"—I cannot think that; I think that the Poor Law Commissioners would obtain information which would ensure the supply of good drugs.

16062. You mean that they would employ practical chemists to test the supply?—Of course; they would take the best means of preventing abuse.

16063. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know how the army and navy are now supplied?—They are, I believe, supplied by public contract, regulated by the army and navy medical boards.

16064. Mr. *Wakley.*] Are you certain that the gentlemen who have made suggestions for the improvement of the present system did not include the workhouses in their views?—I suppose that they may have included them, because the number of cases therein have formed a part of the estimate.

16065. Unless the workhouse had been included there must have been a higher estimate?—The estimate in that case must be exceedingly unequal, because the workhouse is often committed to the care of one medical officer; and though it may affect the general estimate, still the results derived from that general estimate would of course be very advantageous to the gentleman who happened to have the care of the workhouse, connected with a small amount of out-door practice.

16066. Have you found that the medical education which you received before you were appointed Assistant-commissioner has been of use to you in making your medical arrangements in the districts where you have acted?—If you press the question, it will extract from me the answer, that our duties have been so numerous, and have placed us in such extensive and novel relations, that though I may have been assisted by my previous education in coming to the conclusions which I am now prepared to adopt, I was not possessed, in the first instance, of perfectly satisfactory elements to guide me in estimating either the salaries of medical officers for attendance upon the pauper population, or in deciding upon the best arrangement in other respects; and I have already stated to the Committee, in my previous examination, that on that ground I cannot consider the existing arrangements as any thing but provisional; but I do say, that evidence which I have collected, and the evidence which has been presented to the Committee, particularly by Mr. Farr, do afford grounds upon which to proceed to adjust the medical arrangements in the different unions throughout the country.

16067. We understood, from your previous examination, that you were hostile to letting the medical offices of unions by tender?—Certainly.

16068. And that you approve of adopting a fixed salary, which should produce a certain amount of remuneration per case?—A fixed salary for attendance upon the persons in the receipt of out-door relief, or who were known to be so indigent that they could not afford to provide themselves with medical relief.

16069. Would you distinguish between persons receiving out-door relief and in-door relief?—Yes; the workhouse should be subject to different arrangements.

16070. Those two classes would form the permanent list of persons entitled, without the intervention of orders, to medical attendance?—Yes.

16071. Do you approve of the recommendations which have been given for making the medical districts smaller?—As far as my experience is concerned, the suggestions which were made by Sir Astley Cooper would include the average size of the districts in Norfolk and Suffolk.

16072. Of which districts you are the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner?—I am; I understood Sir Astley Cooper to recommend that the diameter of the medical districts should be, on the average, five miles, the circumference being 15; now that will include a square of 16 miles; the medical districts in Norfolk and Suffolk are of that size; they are about four miles square, on the average.

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16073. What is the average population of those districts?—The average population of the districts in Suffolk is 3,284, including the towns where it is large, and in Norfolk it is 3,057.

16074. You have heard the suggestion for appointing a medical guardian to act with some person to be chosen by the board of guardians for the purpose of regulating the size of the districts, and the amount of remuneration applicable to each particular locality; do you approve or disapprove of it?—I confess that if the recommendations which have been made as to the size of districts, and as to the general mode of providing remuneration for medical officers, meet the approbation of this Committee and of the Poor Law Commissioners, and pass into a general regulation to guide the conduct of the boards of guardians throughout the country, I think the occasions for the services of a medical assessor would be exceedingly few, because I think that there would be little subject for dispute between the boards of guardians and the medical profession, which would require the services of a competent medical officer for its adjustment. I can conceive that very useful functions might (as has been described by Mr. Farr) be performed by some medical gentleman appointed to perform those duties; but I do not conceive, on the ground of adjusting differences as to the remuneration and the size of the districts, much would remain for a medical assessor to perform, provided some general recommendation in favour of the views which have been put forward by various witnesses before this Committee, received the approbation of the Poor Law Commissioners. If in any case a question should arise whether a medical officer had rightly treated a patient within the union, or he should be subjected to some charge of neglect or mal-practice, I conceive that the best way of settling that question would be, that the board of guardians should have directions to obtain the services of some respectable physician resident in the county where the union was situated, to assist them in their inquiries and deliberations upon the case. As respects the services of a medical assessor, in relation to the physical condition of the poorer classes, and the sanatory state of the neighbourhood, I am aware that the Poor Law Commissioners entertain the strongest opinion that the medical officers of unions will become most important agents and functionaries for the attainment of the objects which have been proposed to the Committee, and that application has been made to the Secretary of State, who is supposed not to be averse to the proposition, to confer additional powers on the boards of guardians and medical officers, for the purpose of improving, especially, the condition of some of the town districts which are inhabited by the pauper population. By additional powers to the medical officers, I simply mean powers of inspection, and authority to report the existence of nuisances, or of any evils whatever, affecting the sanatory state of any neighbourhood.

16075. *Chairman.*] The returns which are required, and which are now made by the medical officers are calculated, are they not, to convey very valuable information of the state of the districts?—Certainly; and I am aware that the medical profession themselves have become more conscious than they might have been in the first instance of the value of those returns; I hope that I shall not be supposed to speak offensively of that profession, when I say that the requisition of those returns in the first instance, was received with a great degree of impatience; that has subsided, and there has arisen an acknowledgment in the minds of all members of the profession, of the great importance of the returns which they are obliged to make from week to week.

16076. They are the first returns which have been prepared, or have been proposed to be made in this country, with reference to any large classes of the population giving any thing like accurate account of the state of disease?—No returns, such as were calculated to be useful for statistical purposes, had previously been made for any class of the population of this country; and I regret to say, that returns of hospitals are by no means kept with that accuracy throughout the country, which is to be wished.

16077. You have described what would be the course which you would recommend to be adopted if any difficulty arose in the medical arrangements of the district which you would propose to be made by the board of guardians, viz., by calling in the assistance of some physician of that part of the country; with respect to that suggestion, in the event of any medical question arising which required medical knowledge, and upon which the board of guardians themselves would be unable to come to any accurate decision, is it the practice now to call in the assistance

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assistance of some physician?—Only a few weeks have elapsed since, under the direction of the Poor Law Commissioners, I wrote to a board in my district, requesting them to avail themselves of the services of a physician, for purposes similar to those described in the question; resort in that case was had to the services of a physician, because I was detained in London by important duties, and unable to go into the country. On a previous occasion I had a little personal delicacy with respect to the views of an individual surgeon on certain matters affecting the welfare of a union, and I availed myself of the services of a physician from Norwich, with the full approbation of the Poor Law Commissioners; and I am aware also that recourse has been had to the assistance of physicians in other districts upon similar occasions.

16078. In the event of any question connected with the medical arrangements coming under the consideration of the Commissioners in London, is there any thing to prevent their calling in the assistance of any medical man of the utmost eminence, in order to enable them to come to a decision upon the case?—On the contrary, very recently Dr. Southwood Smith has been assisting the Commissioners with his advice concerning certain matters of great importance, on which they were desirous of reporting to the Secretary of State, and I have been also in conjunction with Dr. Arnott, engaged in similar inquiries and investigations for them.

16079. Have you observed any thing, independent of the dietaries of the workhouses, connected with the mode of ventilating or warming the workhouses, which, in your estimation, has affected the health of the inmates?—I think that the workhouses generally in my own district are well ventilated; I confess that I regret to find that the effects of the warm-water apparatus which is used in certain of the houses is not so beneficial as it was anticipated it might be, and I do not think that it is the best means of warming the workhouses; on the contrary, the necessary warmth cannot be frequently obtained without obstructing the ventilation; and the apparatus is frequently out of order from frost and from other circumstances.

16080. Mr. *Wakley*.] You say, that in a case of dispute in one union, or some circumstance which induced you to be dissatisfied, a physician from Norwich was called in, at your suggestion; was he paid for his services?—I am not quite sure whether he is paid yet, but he certainly is to be.

16081. Do you think that that is a fair kind of arbitration for the medical officers of unions; the Assistant-commissioner has the power to call in a physician in all cases of dispute; if he should decide against you, is it likely that you would call him in again?—I do not propose that this should be done by the Assistant-commissioner in all cases; it would be done by him when he thought it necessary; but I propose that it should be done by the board of guardians when they deemed it expedient; in the other case, the physician was chosen by the board of guardians, without the interference of the Assistant-commissioner, except by general recommendation.

16082. The board of guardians appoint the medical officer; they become dissatisfied with the medical officer, and then they appoint their own arbitrator; what voice has the medical officer on such an occasion?—The advantage to the medical officer is, that though the physician may be selected by the board of guardians, the whole of the *esprit de corps* is on the side of the medical officer, which is exceedingly strong in the medical profession; and then there is the further security in the honour and independence of a man of station and respectability.

16083. Do not you consider that the *esprit de corps* is likely to be affected very much by the payment which the party receives?—I must leave that assumption to others, as respects the medical profession; I should not like to make it myself.

16084. If the physician should decide improperly, is he responsible?—He is no more responsible than he is in any other case in which he exercises his discretion, which he has to do every day, concerning the lives of individuals, being, in this case required to do so, concerning the reputation of an individual.

16085. Do you not consider that medical officers would be far more secure if the matter were to be referred to a person holding a high office as a medical commissioner, connected with whose office was a handsome annual salary?—I confess that with every desire to afford to the medical officers throughout the country the utmost protection which can be required, the necessity for appoint-

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ing a medical commissioner for the discharge of those duties appears to me to be exaggerated; I do think that the medical officers would find very few occasions indeed for the decision of a medical commissioner, provided the size of the districts, and the rate of the remuneration, were settled upon equitable general principles.

16086. That must be admitted on all hands, because two great sources of difficulty would be removed; but in cases of dispute, involving professional reputation, or involving the treatment of cases, do you not consider that some professional authority, which would be responsible for its decision, might be referred to on such occasions, with good effect to the public service?—I am quite certain that if any difficulty arose with the Commissioners respecting the decision of a case involving a medical question, that the Commissioners would immediately proceed to avail themselves of the advice of the highest medical authority. I think the organization of the new unions, the erection of the workhouses throughout the country, and the appointment of the staff of medical officers under boards which may be deemed the governing bodies of rural municipalities, does form one of the most important systems of organization existing in any country; and as respects the sanatory condition of the people, cannot ultimately but prove most beneficial when experience shall have been obtained as to the best means of directing those agencies.

16087. You heard some observations which were made by Mr. Rumsey with respect to medical clubs, and to an institution which they have formed in Buckinghamshire, and to the mode of governing that club; do you, from your experience amongst the people in the agricultural districts, consider that the labouring portion of the population are incompetent to manage their own clubs?—The ground upon which I should prefer that the labourers should have a large share in the management of the clubs is that they are institutions for mutual assurance, and that there are no self-acting means of preventing fraud, such as exist, for example, in the workhouse, in deterring an undue reliance upon the poor-rate. The only expedient which can be devised for preventing an undue reliance upon the funds of a benefit society is a feeling of self-preservation in each member of that society, which shall constantly operate and induce him to watch with the utmost vigilance the proceedings of every other member. On that ground, I think, that if the subscriptions of benefit societies proceed to a very large extent from the wealthy classes, and especially if the management is chiefly conducted by the honorary members, there will exist a much larger tendency to fraudulent reliance upon the funds of such societies, than if the fund were chiefly derived from the labourers themselves, and if the societies were chiefly managed by them. I have prepared the rules, as far as the general organization of the society is concerned, of a benefit society, in which I was disposed to commit the veto upon the appointment of officers, and the regulation of the rules, and the general principles of the society, to the honorary members, but to confine the distribution of relief under the society to the ordinary members, with the advice and assistance only of one or two of the honorary members. Perhaps the rules are too long to form a part of the proceedings of this Committee, and I will, therefore, content myself with stating the general principles.

[*The Witness delivered in the same.*—Vide *Appendix* (A.), p. 136.]

16088. In your unions, what has happened in very severe cases of disease, where the union surgeon was desirous of holding a consultation or consultations with a medical practitioner?—I cannot assure you that there is any regulation which I could adduce to the Committee, as of general occurrence, in the unions; but, I believe, that what does constantly happen is, that, whenever a consultation is desired it occurs by the concurrence of the medical officers, without there being at present any regulation upon the subject.

16089. There is no sum set apart to aid the medical practitioner upon such emergencies?—There is not.

16090. Do you not consider that some provision ought to be made for cases of that kind?—I think that whenever a capital operation or any case of extreme difficulty of a similar kind occurs in the workhouse, it would be desirable to have consultation, and to have some means of remunerating the medical officer, but I think the consultations should be strictly confined to such cases.

16091. If

16091. If a case of extreme difficulty occurred out of the workhouse, would you not think that such aid was necessary on such an occasion?—Yes.

16092. And also in difficult cases of labour?—I include that among the other cases.

16093. Do you consider that, in cases of difficulty, or difference arising between the medical officers of the unions, who are surgeons, and the board of guardians, speaking generally, the decision of a physician practising in the neighbourhood would be satisfactory?—I think that a very great majority of cases attended by surgeons, are what may be more strictly termed medical cases; a case might arise of so purely and technically a surgical nature as to render the services of some experienced surgeon of long standing preferable to those of a physician, and, in that case, I think it would be desirable that the board of guardians should avail themselves of those services.

16094. If a medical commissioner were appointed, whether he were a physician or a surgeon, is it not likely that, he being responsible and public attention being directed to him, and his decision being founded upon general principles rather than upon any individual bias, it would be satisfactory to the local authorities?—The great difficulty in having a local physician to decide, is the difficulty which that physician or surgeon might have on account of his private relations to the individual medical officer whose case might be under the consideration of the board of guardians; I have not overlooked that difficulty in my estimate of the best mode of meeting such questions; but I have always observed, that as frequent occasions do arise for calling in the services of arbiters between medical gentlemen in their private practice, those decisions have been conducted, in the main, in a very fair and honourable spirit; and I think there is nothing more honourable to the profession than the apparently total subsidence of personal feelings and jealousies upon such occasions of consultation.

16095. From your experience as an Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, do you consider that the public interests would be advanced if a coroner were appointed to each union?—The distances which parochial officers have to send for coroners at present is, in some districts, exceedingly great, and very great inconvenience indeed is sustained on that account; I do not know whether I am prepared to say that a competent person could be found in every union to discharge the duty of coroner, because my estimate of the qualifications of that officer is very high; the present coroners, as far as I have come in contact with them, have no knowledge whatever of medical jurisprudence, and are quite unfit on that account for the discharge of their duties.

16096. Do you consider that a man can discharge the duties of coroner unless he has received a medical education?—It is utterly impossible that he can.

16097. *Chairman.*] Is there any other observation you would like to make; have you heard the suggestion for supplying the parishes with medicine chests?—On every other occasion except in the evidence which I have heard given to-day, I have understood that it is to be proposed to open a dispensary, and to have a dispenser; but if the recommendation be confined to having at convenient distances a medicine chest, from which the surgeon shall dispense his medicine while he is proceeding through the parishes in the discharge of his duties, I can conceive that would facilitate the poor obtaining proper medicines; and, in fact, assist the surgeon in performing his duties; and the expense would merely consist in providing the chests, and making some additional remuneration to the surgeon for the additional stock it would require. Those chests might be deposited at the places where the relieving officer commonly pays the poor, or at the house of some one of the parochial authorities; and of course some remuneration would probably be required on that account, but I cannot think that the increased expense would be at all commensurate with the benefits obtained from the arrangement.

16098. Mr. *Wakley.*] Have you, at any time, heard a medical officer express a wish that the supply of medicine should be separated from the medical advice?—I have heard that expressed; but, at the same time, I believe the difficulties in the way of the arrangement are infinite, and that it could not be carried out.

16099. *Chairman.*] You think, upon the whole, that the scheme of remuneration which has been proposed, is one that might be reasonably acceded to?—I think that the general principles are very reasonable, and I do not think that the estimate of remuneration is too high.

16100. When you say that, to what estimate of remuneration do you refer?—

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To the permanent list of paupers; that the fixed remuneration per head on that permanent list should afford to the practitioner a payment averaging about 6 *s.* on cases reported *bonâ fide* under a proper system of checks.

16101. With reference to the casual poor?—Concerning thecasual poor I am not able to form so precise an opinion; but I do not think that the estimate ought to be so low as in the case of the more permanent recipients of parochial relief.

16102. Does it occur to you that, in the arrangement, which would allow something like a payment of 6 *s.* a case for the permanent poor, any additional allowance should be made for accidents, or cases of broken limbs?—I do not think I should separate the accidents occurring to the permanent poor; and I do not think among the permanent poor would be found many cases of midwifery or accidents; and such cases of attendance upon difficult labour would appear to be more properly included among the casualties.

APPENDIX.

PAPER delivered in by *J. P. Kay*, Esq., M. D.—(*Vide* Question 16087, p. 134.)

Appendix.

Paper delivered in by *J. P. Kay*, Esq., M. D.

Appendix (A.)—Draft of Circular respecting Medical Assurance Societies for the Husbandmen and Mechanics.

To the Board of Guardians of_____

Gentlemen,

The earnings of the labourer provide for his ordinary daily wants, but the accidents of life which suddenly deprive him of his customary resources will still find him unprovided with the means of encountering such emergencies, unless he be supported by the funds derived from a well regulated system of mutual assurance.

Hitherto benefit and mutual assurance societies have had a precarious existence. Their prosperity has been impaired by a continuation of inauspicious circumstances, some of which are already at an end; and to the removal of other classes of obstacles I am desirous of drawing your attention.

In the class of obstacles already removed the enormities of the allowance-system were most permanent. Whilst the poor-rates were made the means of assuring the labourer against all casualties, the temptations to avoid labour, to neglect frugality, to indulge his passions, and to be blind to the consequences of his errors, were too strong for an ignorant man.

The better educated classes have hitherto, with rare exceptions, abandoned the promotion of the system of mutual assurance to the efforts of the unlettered, or to the interference of individuals of other classes, who have made these associations the means of promoting their own personal interests at the expense of the earnings, morals and happiness of the workmen.

The benefit societies established by the labourers are generally founded on self-destructive principles. A brief existence has usually led many of them to bankruptcy, either from the exhaustion of their funds on ill-regulated allowances, or from the disappearance of one or other of their officers with the entire capital of the society.

The societies established by publicans commonly add to both the above-mentioned fatalities the equally gross error of rendering the association, avowedly established by the active exercise of frugality and forethought, the means of promoting a waste of the resources of the labourers.

The frequent failure of such associations has spread distrust among the poor, and despondency among those who desire to see them self-dependent. In attempting to establish a well-regulated system of mutual assurance you will have to encounter many obstacles arising out of the mismanagement which has hitherto prevailed throughout the social economy of the labouring classes.

I am

I am, therefore, desirous to draw your attention to certain elements of the constitution of benefit societies, which appear to me intimately connected with their permanent prosperity.

The labouring classes are not possessed of sufficient information to prepare the scheme of a mutual assurance society, on such principles as to ensure its success. The selection of the requisite tables; the settlement of the principles on which the society must depend for its prosperity; the elaboration of these principles into rules; and, probably, the selection of the highest officers, will require the exercise of an intelligence, and the possession of information superior to that enjoyed by the mass.

But such societies, when once founded, must owe their permanent existence chiefly to the energies of the labourers themselves. The regularity of the contributions cannot be ensured otherwise than by their unassisted efforts; and since these contributions are derived from the rewards of toil, they have an unquestionable right to assist in controlling the management of the funds thus collected.

Much advantage will be derived from such management, which cannot be attained by any other means. In the absence of an actual test of fraud, the chief safe-guard against imposture among those who derive contingent benefits from the system of mutual assurance, is the instinct of self-preservation, with which each individual member of the society is inspired when he knows that his own chances of advantage are impaired by any fraud on the society. Each member ought to be made an active instrument for the prevention of the fraud of every other member. The constant exercise of this instinct of self-preservation will depend on the prevalence of a consciousness that each individual member has a direct interest in the prosperity of the society, and this conviction will be best sustained by giving him the power of taking an active part in its proceedings.

The exercise of the principle of self-preservation may also be impaired by the extension of the society, so far as to create an impression that its funds can receive no permanent injury from individual errors, which impression will first induce a member to attempt imposture himself, and then to become indifferent to the frauds of his neighbours.

I am not disposed to undervalue the security which the greater number of the members affords against embarrassments arising from the sudden accumulation of casualties tending to exhaust the funds; but I conceive that such dangers chiefly threaten the infancy of assurance societies of moderate local extension, and that after the society has existed a certain period, the members become sufficiently numerous, and the funds large enough to meet all emergencies. The greater danger is the existence of the latent but fatal mischief of indifference to the success of the society among its members. To whatsoever extent this indifference exists, it is a bounty on the existence of a fraudulent dependence on the funds, and its general prevalence would amount to a confiscation of these funds to the most skilful impostors, against whose wiles the investigations instituted by a board of directors, constituted of honorary members, would afford an insufficient protection.

For these reasons I am disposed to believe that the success of such societies cannot be permanent, unless

1. The society embrace only a moderate area, within which the facilities of intercourse among the members are such as to afford the greatest security against fraud by their mutual vigilance.

2. Unless the benefit members have such a share in the management of the society as shall awaken and sustain their interest in its proceedings.

If the extent of the area within which the society exists be limited, a necessity is created at its origin that exertions should be put forth to obtain at once a sufficient number of members to enable its funds to encounter successfully the temporary pressure of numerous casualties. Societies for mutual assurance cannot exist long unless the members amount to a certain number, and the operation of the principles on which they are formed is rendered more secure as the number of the members increases.

In proceeding to establish a benefit society among the labourers, it would therefore probably be absolutely necessary that members of the middle classes should actively exert themselves in explaining the advantages of the association, and increasing the number of its members.

None of the paid officers now engaged in the administration of the laws relating to the relief of the poor in the new unions can be usefully employed to promote the success of such societies by direct communication with the poor. Such services may, however, be rendered by guardians in their private capacities; and the unions afford the best means for circulating information, and arranging the general organization of these associations.

These preliminary arrangements might be settled in a conference of the guardians of the union, with others of the more wealthy inhabitants, and with the clergy, and they would chiefly consist,—

1.—In a division of the union into districts in each of which a benefit society should be established.

On inspecting the map it will commonly be found that every union contains two, three or four large villages (according to its size) forming convenient centres round which 10 or 12 other parishes may be grouped so as to form a district in which a benefit society might obtain a sufficient number of members without any loss of vigour from the undue extension of its area.

Appendix.

Paper delivered in by *J. P. Kay*, Esq., M.D.

When the parishes of the union had thus been divided into districts,—

2.—Subscriptions should be obtained from the gentry, clergy and occupiers to defray the general expenses of the association, viz., painting, stationery, hire of a room, &c.

3.—A council should be elected from among the honorary subscribers, which should prepare rules for each of the district associations; in these rules the following principles should be embodied:

The council of honorary members should act for the entire union, and might be composed of four or five gentlemen resident in each benefit association district.

This council should be elected annually by a general meeting of the honorary and ordinary subscribers in each district, who should select four or five from among the honorary subscribers as members of the council.

Each society should have separate funds, and therefore a separate assurance derived from and depending upon the contributions of its own members.

Each society should separately manage the collection of its contributions, the admission of members, the examination of the sick, the consideration of the report of the warden on each case, and the award or refusal of an allowance, &c., &c.

The district should be divided into sections, each containing one or more parishes, and each parochial section should be represented by one or more wardens, elected by the honorary and ordinary members from among the ordinary members resident in the parochial section.

The duty of the parish wardens should be to collect, to visit the sick, report to the board of wardens, and assist in the deliberations of the board.

A board of wardens should meet at the room provided for that purpose in the central parish at stated periods to regulate the allowances from the society's fund.

The council of honorary members should have a veto on the appointment of all the superior paid officers, should fix the security to be given by them, and choose the place of meeting for the board of wardens.

The board of wardens should not have any power to alter, add to, or diminish the rules of the society without the consent in writing of a majority of two-thirds of the council of honorary members given at a meeting of that body; but no alteration thus agreed to by the council should be carried into effect in any of the societies without the consent in writing of two-thirds of the board of wardens of that society.

1.—*The Object.*

The object of this friendly society is to raise, from time to time, by subscription among the members thereof, or by voluntary contributions, or by donations, a stock or fund for the mutual relief and maintenance of such members, their wives or children, relations or nominees, in sickness, infancy, advanced age or death, as hereafter set forth.

The objects of a society formed under 10 Geo. IV. cap. 56, and 4 & 5 Will. IV. c. 40, need not be confined to those above specified; but when provision is made for relief in any other case than that of sickness, advanced age, widowhood or other natural state or contingency susceptible of calculation by way of average, the contributions for such must be kept separate and distinct, or the charges defrayed by extra subscriptions of the members at the time such contingencies take place.

2.—*The Extent.*

This society shall comprise the parishes of
and the meetings of the Board of Wardens shall be held in the parish of
at such time and place as the Council shall direct.

3.—*Management.*

This institution shall be under the management of a board of wardens, a council, trustees and a treasurer; the qualifications, mode of election, duties and powers, of which bodies and officers shall be exercised as is hereinafter specified.

Honorary Members.

Every person contributing by benefaction not less than pounds, or by annual subscription not less than shillings, shall become an honorary member; but not so as to be entitled, by any such benefaction or subscription, to any benefit or emolument from the funds of the society.

Ordinary Members.

The ordinary members of this society shall consist of males and females who, at the time of admission, shall have severally attained the age of fifteen years, and shall not have completed the age of fifty-six years. The ordinary members shall be denominated the "Members;" and in all rules and proceedings, the term "Members" shall be considered as exclusively appropriated to the ordinary members, who, as such, shall be entitled to all the benefits arising from the contributions and funds vested in the trustees.

Trustees.

Paper delivered in by *J. P. Kay*, Esq., M. D.

Trustees.

The trustees shall be four in number, (one-half being chosen from among the honorary members), and they shall be *ex-officio* members of the board of wardens.

Investment of Funds.

The trustees shall, with the consent of the board testified in writing, invest the funds of the society in pursuance of the provisions of 10 Geo. IV., c. 56, ss. 13, 31.

Under this rule the funds may be invested on mortgage of freehold property in the funds, or other Government security, savings banks, or with the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt. When the funds are not very large, it seems most advisable to place them in the nearest savings bank; but when they amount to a considerable sum, the investment direct with the Commissioners is preferable, as allowing an increased rate of interest; and, in order to enable a society to avail itself of this mode of investment, a printed (or manuscript) copy of the rules must be sent to the National Debt Office, Old Jewry, London; and *two* of the trustees are to certify under their hands that such copy is a true and literal transcript of the original rules, and that the original rules have been certified and enrolled according to law: the Comptroller-general will then transmit to the society the regular form of the order for investment, as well as the necessary instructions to enable the trustees to withdraw the sum deposited. The smallest sum that can at any one time be invested with the Commissioners, is 50*l.*; and the interest allowed is $2\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per cent. per diem, or 3*l.* 16*s.* $-\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per cent. per annum. The whole, or any part, of the money so invested may at any time be drawn out by the society, but whilst it remains invested it accumulates at compound interest.

Parish Wardens.

The council shall divide the society's district into sections, comprising one or more parishes, and for each section so constituted one or more parochial wardens shall be appointed, as the council shall deem expedient, on account of the population, area, &c., of each section. The wardens shall be chosen from among the ordinary members resident in the parochial section for which they are appointed, and shall be elected at the annual general meeting.

General Meeting.

A general meeting of the honorary and ordinary members shall be held at
on the next after these rules are duly certified, and on the
in in every year, at the hour of 11 in the forenoon, at which all questions shall be determined by the majority then and there present at such meeting, the parochial wardens shall be elected or removed, and five other wardens shall be chosen from among the honorary members, and the trustees, the secretary, the local agents (if any), the honorary physician or physicians, and the surgeon or surgeons for the year ensuing, shall be appointed, or in failure thereof, the officers last chosen shall be considered as again appointed, and as such shall continue in office.

Anniversary Meeting.

An anniversary meeting of the honorary and ordinary members may be held at such time and place, and under such regulations, as the general meeting shall deem convenient; but the attendance at any such meeting shall be voluntary, and the funds of the society shall not sustain any portion of the expenses incurred on such occasions.

Meeting of Wardens.

A general meeting of the wardens shall be held.

Parochial Wardens.

The parochial wardens shall visit the sick members, or those suffering under any casualty, and who are claimants on the funds, or receiving allowance; and, having carefully inquired into their condition, shall report the circumstances to the board of wardens at the next meeting.

Benefit Societies.

The benefit societies existing in any union shall be affiliated together for the election of a council, which shall consist of five honorary members, chosen for each society at its general annual meeting, and who shall remain in office one year.

Council.

The council shall determine the extent of the wardens, parochial sections, the number of wardens to be elected for each; and the names of the treasurer, auditors, and trustees selected at the general annual meeting from among the honorary members shall be submitted to them for their approval, without which these appointments shall be void and of no effect. No alterations shall be made in the fundamental rules of this society without the approval in writing of two-thirds of the members of the council being first obtained at a special meeting of the council duly convened for that purpose.

PAPERS delivered in by *William Farr*, Esq.—(*Vide* p. 117.)

TABLE (A.)

ABSTRACT of the relative Population (1831 and 1837); the Number of Square Miles; the constantly Sick; the Cases of Sickness; the Numbers Discharged Cured, Dead, or otherwise; the Numbers remaining; the Medical Salaries; the Number of Districts; the Number of Medical Officers; the Number of Parishes; and the Number of Unions, taken from Eight Counties.

PARTS OF COUNTIES.	Calculated Rate of Increase.	Population: 1831.	Population: 1837.	Square Miles.	Constantly Sick.	Total Cases.	Discharged: Cured.	Discharged: Died.	Discharged: Otherwise.	Discharged: Remain.	£.	Number of Districts.	Number of Medical Officers.	Parishes.	Unions.
1. Dorsetshire - - -	1·067	105,409	112,440	628 ½	680 ½	12,393	10,006	509	759	669	1,978	32	35	190	8
2. Devonshire - - -	1·074	238,184	255,880	1,581	1,198	16,396	12,961	839	1,481	1,109	- -	80	79	267	10
3. - - - - -	- -	133,369	143,280	758	798	10,413	8,050	507	1,137	707	1,657	43	45	131	5
4. Lincolnshire - - -	1·088	132,683	144,310	902	471 ½	6,080	4,391	388	514	379	1,427	26	34	233	6
5. Lancashire and Cheshire -	1·117	79,070	88,372	402	222	2,508	1,718	267	284	259	694	16	18	126	3
6. Norfolk - - - -	1·074	206,731	221,961	1,055	808	15,419	- -	- -	- -	- -	3,174	49	64	484 ½	13
7. - - - - -	- -	190,381	204,410	965	732	14,148	11,400	694	820	1,107	2,874	46	55	450	12
8. Suffolk - - - -	1·071	257,584	275,850	1,256	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	4,198	58	70	474	14
9. - - - - -	- -	218,981	234,503	1,081	1,547	30,139	- -	- -	- -	1,638	3,608	49	61	406	12
10. - - - - -	- -	201,974	216,290	948	1,471	26,850	22,330	1,055	1,142	1,532	3,303	45	57	360	11
11. Wilts - - - -	1·053	92,601	97,550	622 ½	828	17,672	15,786	530	775	732	- -	24	27	- -	8
12. - - - - -	- -	80,727	85,042	525	722	16,472	14,704	477	765	649	1,578	21	25	116	7
TOTALS of 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12	- -	923,613	994,144	5,128 ½	5,096 ½	88,864	72,599	3,897	5,421	5,302	13,511	229	269	1,606	52
13. Metropolitan Districts -	1·108?	343,124	380,181	343	1,327	37,841	30,752	1,923	3,556	1,292	2,636	25	25	27	9

Notes:

The Medical Districts (col. 13) are exclusive of isolated workhouses, which sometimes occur. Odd shillings frequently occur in the Salaries; these are always merged in the pounds: for instance, 35*l.* 3*s.* is written 35 *l.*, and 35*l.* 17*s.* is written 36*l.*

2. Devonshire.—The Crediton Union consists of Eight Medical Districts. The incomplete return has been interpolated from cols. 5 to 10. The Cures have been interpolated in the Milton Abbott and Buckland Monachorum Districts of the Tavistock Union.

7. Norfolk.—The Union of Downham is excluded; the return in the columns of Cure, Death, &c. not being complete.

9. Suffolk.—The Unions of Cosford and Plomsgate omitted.

10. The Unions of Cosford, Plomsgate and Thingoe omitted.

12. The Union of Pewsey omitted.

13. The Unions of Bethnal Green, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Strand, Camberwell, St. George the Martyr, Lambeth, St. Olave's, St. Saviour's, Wandsworth and Clapham.

Appendix,

Papers delivered in by *W. Farr*, Esq.

MEDICAL DISTRICTS, 1837.

TABLE (1.)—Showing in several Counties the average AREA of the MEDICAL DISTRICTS, the average estimated POPULATION (1837), the Number of CASES treated, the Numbers constantly SICK, the DEATHS and the SALARIES.

Each District, Mean Numbers deduced from TABLE (A.)

	Area in Square Miles.	Population, 1837.	Cases.	Constantly Sick.	Deaths.	Salaries.
						£.
Lincolnshire - -	35	5,550	204	18	15	55
Devonshire - -	20	3,198	191	15	10	41
Dorsetshire - -	20	3,514	353	21	16	62
Cheshire and Lancashire	25	5,523	142	14	17	43
Norfolk - - -	22	4,530	275	16	15	65
Suffolk - - -	22	4,786	525	32	23	72
Wilts - - -	25	4,050	764	34	24	75
The Eight Counties	22	4,341	358	22	17	59
Metropolitan Districts	1·36	15,207	1,449	53	77	105

POPULATION.

TABLE (2.)—Showing the Cases of SICKNESS, the constantly SICK, and the DEATHS, under the Medical Officers of Unions, in a Population of 1,000.

	Population, 1,000 - - Year 1837.		
	Pauper Cases treated.	Paupers constantly Sick.	Deaths among Paupers.
Lincolnshire - - -	36·69	3·27	2·69
Devonshire - - -	59·72	4·68	3·28
Dorsetshire - - -	100·36	6·05	4·53
Parts of Cheshire and Lancaster - - - -	25·67	2·41	3·02
Norfolk - - - -	63·18	3·58	3·40
Suffolk - - - -	113·40	6·60	4·88
Wilts - - - -	188·69	4·68	3·28
The Eight Counties -	82·40	5·12	3·92
Metropolitan Districts -	95·30	3·49	5·06
Probable annual Mortality for England and Wales, on the Total Population	- -	- -	21·2 *Edmonds.* 18·55 *Rickman.*

Read thus: In the county of Lincoln, out of a Population of 1,000, nearly 37 (36.69) cases of sickness were treated by the medical officers of Unions; 3·27 Sick were constantly under treatment; and 3 (2·69) died.

N. B.—By taking a Population of 100,000, instead of 1,000, as the basis of this Table, all the decimals may be read as whole numbers. In Norfolk, 340 died out of a Population of 100,000.

MEDICAL SALARIES.

TABLE (3.)—The first Division, showing the REMUNERATION in Pounds Sterling and Decimals of a Pound, paid for a Population of 1,000; for 1,000 Sick a Year, and for 1,000 Cases; the second Division showing the Amount of Remuneration for a Population of 1, for 1 Sick a Year, for 1 Case.

	Area in Square Miles.	1,000 Population.	1,000 Sick, 365 Days.	1,000 Cases treated.	1, Population.	1, Sick, 365 Days.	1 Case.
		£.	£.	£.	d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Lincolnshire - -	35	9·89	3026·	269·6	2 ½	3 – 6	5 4 ½
Devonshire - -	20	11·56	2076·	170·9	2 ¾	2 1 6	3 5
Dorsetshire - -	20	17·59	2907·	175·3	4 ¼	2 18 2	3 6
Cheshire & Lancaster	25	7·85	3126·	305·9	1 ¾	3 2 7	6 1 ½
Norfolk - -	22	14·06	3926·	222·6	3 ½	3 18 6½	4 5 ½
Suffolk - - -	22	15·39	2331·	152·7	3 ½	2 6 7	3 1 ¾
Wilts - - -	24	18·56	2186·	98·3	4 ½	2 3 8½	1 11 ½
The Eight Counties	22	13·60	2651·	164·9	3 ¼	2 13 –¼	3 3 ½
Metropolitan Districts -	1·36	6·93	1986·	72·75	1 ¾	1 19 9	1 5 ¼

Appendix.

Papers delivered in by *W. Farr*, Esq.

SICKNESS AND DEATHS.

TABLE (4.)—Showing the Mean Duration of Cases of Sickness in Days; the Deaths to 100 Cases treated; the Annual Deaths out of 100 constantly Sick; and the Ratio of constantly Sick to 1 Annual Death.

	Mean Duration of Cases.	Mortality of Cases.	Deaths out of 100 Sick, 365 Days.	Constantly Sick to 1 Annual Death.
	Days.	Deaths to 100 treated.		
Metropolitan Districts - - -	13·38	5·31	145·	·69
Districts in Eight Counties - -	22·73	4·78	76·	1·31

Read thus: The mean duration of the cases in the Metropolitan Districts, was 13 days (13·38); 5 died (5·31) out of 100 cases treated; 145 deaths occurred in the year to 100 constantly sick; and ·69 were constantly sick, to 1 annual death. In other words, the *sick time* was to the deaths as 0·69 to 1, or nearly as 7 to 10; this fact shows that the quantity of sickness has not been exaggerated, as the sick time is generally in the ratio of 2 years' sickness to 1 death.

VISITS TO THE SICK.

TABLE (5.)—Showing the Frequency of Visits to the Sick; the Proportion of Visits at the Patient's Home; and the Proportion of Cases to 100 Persons.

	Attendance on 1 Patient constantly Sick.						Proportion of Attendances.				Cases to 100 Persons.
			With Workhouses.		Without Workhouses.		Workhouses.		No Workhouses.		
	Annual Visits.	Frequency.	Annual Visits.	Frequency.	Annual Visits.	Frequency.	Surgery.	Home.	Surgery.	Home.	
Metropolitan Districts -	144	every 2·5 day	- -	- -	- -	days. - -	10	25	10	29	187
Lincolnshire -	- -	- -	97	4· day	128	3·	10	- -	10	73	119
Devonshire -	118	3· day	180	2· day	123	3·	10	44	10	115	126
Dorsetshire -	- -	- -	- -	- -	127	3·	10	- -	10	35	116
Cheshire and Lancaster -	90	4· day	- -	- -	84	4·4	10	115	10	60	114

PRIME COST OF MEDICINES PER CASE, &c.

22 Dispensaries:	Annual Cost of Drugs, Leeches, &c.	Average Number of Patients.
	£. s. d.	
10:—Hertford, Morpeth, Doncaster, Windsor, Tewkesbury, Kingston-on-Thames, Cockermouth, Lichfield, Gainsborough, Louth - - - - - - - - - -	786 19 –	7,963
10:—Rotherham, Darlington, Loughborough, Kendal, Dovor, Reading, Ipswich, Wigan, Bradford, Cheltenham - -	1,717 12 –	14,508
2:—Wolverhampton, Horncastle - - - - - -	321 11 –	4,008
£.	2,826 2 –	26,479

From *Dr. Bigsby's Pamphlet on Dispensaries.*

Number of Dispensaries - - - - - - 22.
Average annual Cost of Drugs and Medical Appliances, £. 2,826.
Average annual Number of Patients - - - 26,479.
Cost of Medicines per Patient - - - - 2 *s.* 1 ½ *d.*
Cost of Medicines for 100 Cases - - - - £. 10·673.

Appendix.

Papers delivered in by *W. Farr*, Esq.

9 County Hospitals:

Salop, 5 years; Chester, 3; Bedford, 2; York, 2; Colchester, 2; Winchester, 1; Salisbury, 1; Aylesbury, 1; Lincoln, 10.

Out-patients treated	25,465.
In-patients treated	12,963.
Under treatment one year	1,397.
The cost of Drugs and other Medical Appliances (except Wine)	£. 6,898.

Assuming that the medicines for Out-patients cost the same as at Dispensaries, namely, 2*s*. 1½*d*. each, it will follow that the drugs and medical appliances for In-patients, cost

£. 4,180, or = £. 6,898—£. 2,718;

And the medicines for an average sick population of 1,397, under medical treatment one year in the Hospitals, cost - £. 4,180;

Or for 100 sick persons kept up one year - £. 299·21.

„ 1 person kept up one year - £. 2. 19. 10.

The medicines for 12,963 In-patients cost £. 4,180,=for each case 6*s*. 5½*d*.

(*British Medical Almanack*, 1837.)

Canterbury Infirmary:

10 Years, 1825–34:

Out-patients treated		5,851
Average number of In-patients treated, constantly under treatment		57·3
Total Cost of Drugs, Phials, Pots, Leather Skins, &c.	£. 3,128 10 –	
Leeches	282 5 –	
Spirits	124 5 –	
Surgical Instruments, Bandages, &c.	178 10 –	
	£. 3,713 10 –	

Calculated Cost of Medicines, &c. for 5,851 Out-patients, at 2*s*. 1½*d*. a head, £. 624. 10.

Cost of Medicines, &c. for an average number of 57·3 Patients under treatment 10 years - £. 3,189.

Or for 1 Patient constantly kept up - £. 5. 11. 1.

„ 100 Patients - £. 555. 4. 0.

(*A Return by Dr. M'Divitt, Physician to the Canterbury Infirmary.*)

St. George's Hospital, London:

	1835.	1834.	1833.	Total.
In-patients remaining 31 December	300	283	227	* 270
In-patients discharged	2,175	1,850	—	4,025
Out-patients discharged	4,622	4,611	—	9,233
Prime Cost of Drugs	£. 878	£. 1,168	—	£. 2,046
„ Leeches and Herbs	266	335	—	601
„ Bottles, utensils & sundry small articles	33	88	—	121
„ Brandy and Spirits of Wine	112	189	—	301
„ Vinegar and Chloride of Lime	49	87	—	136
„ Surgical Instruments	206	95	—	301
Total Cost of Medical and Surgical Appliances	1,543	1,966	—	3,509

* Mean In-patients remaining 2 years.

9,233 Out-patients were treated in the 2 years, and the prime cost of Medicines, &c., at 2*s*. 1½*d*., would amount to - £. 985. 8.

£. 3,509—£. 985=£. 2,523.

Leaving £. 2,523 for the treatment of 4,025 In-patients,=12*s*. 10*d*. per case,=100 cases of In-patients, £. 62·70.

For each of a given number of Patients treated, one year - £. 4. 13. 5½.

For 100 „ „ „ - £. 467·33.

(*Deduced from Reports of the Hospital*, 1834 & 1835.)

Appendix.

Papers delivered in by *W. Farr*, Esq.

21 Provincial Hospitals:

(*Rev. C. Oxenden's Statistical Return of County Infirmaries.*)

Treated, Out-patients, 49,395; In-patients, 16,796; Average Sick Population - - 1,896
Cost of Drugs and other Medical Appliances (including drugs, leeches, wine, spirits, instruments, phials, bandages, trusses, &c.) - - - - - - - - £. 15,216
Estimated Cost of Medicines for Out-patients - - - - - - - - 5,272
£. 9,944

For each of a given number of In-patients under treatment, one year - - - - £. 5. 5.
For 100 patients under treatment, one year - - - - - - - - £. 524·47.

GENERAL RESULTS.

	For 1 Case and 100 Cases.				For a given Sick Population a Year under Treatment.	
	Out-patients*.		In-patients.			
	1 Case.	100 Cases.	1 Case.	100 Cases.	1 Sick.	100 Sick.
	s. d.	*£. dec.*	*s. d.*	*£. dec.*	*£. s. d.*	*£. dec.*
22 Dispensaries - - - -	2 1½	10·673				
9 County Infirmaries - -	2 1½	- -	6 5¼	32·246	2 19 10	299·21
Canterbury Infirmary, 10 years -	2 1½	- -	- -	- -	5 11 1	555·40
St. George's Hospital, London -	2 1½	- -	12 10	62·698	4 13 5½	467·33
21 County Infirmaries (including wine and trusses) - - -	2 1½	- -	11 10	59·205	5 4 11¾	524·47
Bristol Infirmary, 10 years†, (cost of trusses deducted from cost of medicines) - - - - -	2 1½	- -	- -	- -	3 10 4½	351·90
Ditto (trusses, wine and spirits deducted) - - - - - -	2 1½	- -	7 8½	38·545	3 1 4½	306·90
Remuneration of Medical Officers, including Salaries and the supply of Medicines in Poor Law Unions of 8 Counties - - - -	- -	- -	3 3½	16·49	2 13 -¼	265·01

* Assumed to be the same in the other observations.

† Out-patients, 48,170; In-patients under treatment, 10 years, 198·5. Total cost of Medical Appliances, £. 13,778. Drugs and Chemicals, £. 4,659; Wine, £. 699; Leeches, £. 1,326; Surgical Instruments, £. 308; Trusses, £. 1,650.

(*British Medical Almanack*, 1838.)

IRISH PRISONS.—7 Years.

Sum of the 7 average annual numbers of Prisoners under confinement - - - - 26,228
A correction, the cost of medicines not being stated - - - - - 824
7) 25,404
Prison Population, or average number constantly in confinement - - - - 3,629

Charge for Medicines in 7 years - - - - - - - - £. 9,510. 4.

$\frac{£.\ 9,510}{25,404}$ = Medicines for 1 Prisoner during a year - - - 7 *s.* 6 *d.*
Medicines for 100 Prisoners - - - - - £. 37·436.
If of the 100 Prisoners 4 were constantly sick = £. 9·359 for each.

Year 1826.

Average Number of Prisoners under confinement - - - - - - - - 2,760
Number of Prisons - - - - - - - - - - - - - 36
Cost of Medicines - - - - - - - - - - - - - £. 1,309. 8.

Salaries:

Highest, £. 145. 10.—Lowest, £. 30. - 30 Medical Officers; Salaries, £. 2,366 = £. 78. 18. each.
„ 200. „ 5. - 35 Local Inspectors „ 2,820 = 80. 11. „
„ 150. „ 60. - 34 Chaplains - „ 3,030 = 89. 2. „
„ 540. „ 30. - 35 Governors - „ 7,503 = 214. 7. „

2,760 Prisoners in 36 Prisons = 77 in each.

For 1 Prisoner a year:—Cost of Medical Attendance - - - - £. 1 - 6
Medicines, &c. - - - - - 17 2
£. 1 17 8

For 100 Prisoners a year:—Cost of Medical Attendance - - - £. 102·4
Medicines, &c. - - - - 85·7
£. 188·1.

Medical Attendance and Medicines:

For 1 Prisoner constantly sick, assuming that 5 in 100 are constantly on the sick list in the Irish Prisons - - - - - - - - - - £. 37. 12. 0.
For a Pauper constantly on the sick list - - - - - - - - £. 2. 13. 0.

NAVY.

Medicines for Navy:

From Jan. 1, 1835, Galenicals, &c. have been supplied by the Apothecaries' Company, at the rate of £. 11. 10. for every 100 men voted on the Estimates; = £. 0·115 each, = 2*s*. 3½*d*.
Chemicals are supplied by Howard & Co.
(*A Return to Parliament, by Sir W. Burnett*, 25 April 1835.)

Pay of Medical Officers of Navy, 1838–9	£. 70,596
Half-pay	64,340
	£. 134,936
Average Number of Seamen and Marines (1832)	28,759
Labourers in Dockyards (1832)	7,201
	35,960

Medical Attendance on 100 Men - £. 196 = each £. 1. 19. 3.
Including Half-pay of Medical Officers, 375 = „ 3. 15. 0.

REMUNERATION of Medical Officers in Eighty English Prisons.

(*From the Annual Return made to the Secretary of the Home Department, Year ending Michaelmas* 1832.)

GAOLS, &c.	SALARIES. Chaplains. No.	Chaplains. £.	Surgeons. No.	Surgeons. £.	SICK CASES.	Remaining at Michaelmas 1831.	Remaining at Michaelmas 1832.	DEATHS.
13	13	1,617	11	1,199	1,272	1,590	1,545	51
21	20	2,975	20	1,460	1,865	2,228	2,199	40
23	22	4,205	22	2,000	3,387	4,423	4,703	164
23	23	2,955	23	1,377	2,286	2,188	2,115	45
80	78	11,752	76	6,036	8,810	10,429	10,562	300
A correction for incomplete Returns				123	113			
				5,913	8,697			

Medical Attendance on 100 cases - - - - - - - - - - £. 67·989.
Medicines and Medical Attendance - - - 13*s*. 7*d*. each case of sickness.
Annual cases in 100 Prisoners - - - 83.
Annual Deaths - - - - - - - - 2·9
Average Numbers under confinement - - - - - - - - 10·495.

Cost of Medical Attendance for the year:—
For 100 Prisoners, £. 57·50; for 1 Prisoner, 10*s*. 6*d*.
Cost of Clerical Attendance for the year:—
For 100 Prisoners, £. 111·97; for 1 Prisoner, £. 1. 2. 2½.
Average Medical Salaries - - - - - - - £. 79
Average Clerical Salaries - - - - - - - 151
The Medical Officers supply drugs and other medical appliances in nearly all instances; in two or three they are paid for them in addition to the salaries.
Medical Attendance on a case of sickness in a Felon - - - - - - 13*s*. 7*d*.
„ „ „ „ in a Pauper - - - - - - 3*s*. 3¼*d*.

DORCHESTER GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

(*From a Return made to an Order of the House of Commons, not printed.*)

Average Number of Prisoners in Gaol - - - - - - - - - - 125

Total cases of Sickness in the year:
Infirmary - - - - - - - - - - - - 100
Casualties - - - - - - - - - - - - 437
Average Number on the Sick-list - - - - - - - - - - 6·27
Number of Deaths - - - - - - - - - - - - 3
Amount of Surgeon's Salary - - - - - - - - - - - - £. 50
Druggist's Bill - - - - - - - - - - - - - £. 81

Medical Attendance:
1 Prisoner in Gaol a year - - - - 8*s*. + Druggist's Bill, 12*s*. 11½*d*. = 21*s*.
1 Person constantly sick a year, £. 7. 19. 6. + - - „ - £. 12. 18. 4½. = £. 20. 18.
1 Case, Infirmary Case - - - - - 10*s*. + - - „ - - 16*s*. = £. 1. 6.
1 Case, taking in Casualties - 1*s*. 10*d*. + - - „ - - 3*s*. = 4*s*. 10*d*.

Appendix.

Papers delivered in by *W. Farr*, Esq.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE RATE of REMUNERATION, per Case, for MEDICAL ATTENDANCE upon PAUPERS in *England* and *Wales*.

CHARGE, PER CASE:

	s.	d.
To Prime Cost of Medicines	2	6
Medical Advice (seven Visits and a half, at 4 *d.* each)	2	6
Journeys	1	6
Payment per Case	6	6

N.B.—This rate of payment to apply as an average to all the Districts indiscriminately in town, the open country, cities and workhouses.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE RATE of PAYMENT for MEDICAL ATTENDANCE upon a given Number of PAUPER PATIENTS, during 365 Days.

	One, Sick 365 Days. £.	s.	d.
To Prime Cost of Medicines	2	–	–
Medical Advice (122 Visits)	2	–	–
Journeys	1	4	–
Payment for one on an average sick, 365 days	£. 5	4	–

PROPOSED MEAN POPULATION, &c. of METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS.

Area in miles.	Population.	Cases.	Paupers constantly Sick.	Salaries.
0.77?	7,000	700	25	£. 100

As the districts are of small extent, no charge needs be made for journeys. The remuneration in cities is best deduced from the average numbers on the *Sick List;* which is every week submitted to the Boards of Guardians. Thus in the Metropolitan districts, according to this scale, 25 sick paupers would, on an average, be under the care of the medical man; and the charge, per head, being £. 4, the salary would be $25 \times 4 = £.\ 100$.

ILLUSTRATION of a Mode of adjusting the CHARGE, per Case, for MEDICAL ATTENDANCE upon PAUPERS to different Localities.

	For Medicines. s.	d.	Medical Advice. s.	d.	Journeys. s.	d.	TOTAL. s.	d.
Area, under one-half square mile, per case	2	6	2	6	–	–	5	–
„ „ 5 square miles	2	6	2	6	1	–	6	–
„ „ 10 square miles	2	6	2	6	2	–	7	–
„ „ 15 square miles	2	6	2	6	3	–	8	–
„ „ 20 square miles	2	6	2	6	4	–	9	–
„ „ 25 square miles	2	6	2	6	5	–	10	–
„ „ 30 square miles	2	6	2	6	6	–	11	–
„ „ 35 square miles	2	6	2	6	7	–	12	–

It is not pretended here that the charge in the column, headed "Journeys," is the sum that should be fixed upon. The Table is only intended to illustrate the principle upon which the medical charges may be adjusted. A similar scheme may be drawn up, founded on the average numbers constantly sick.

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During the Year ended 31st December, 1837.

	The Average Number of Males and Females constantly in the House, from Daily Enumeration.		The Average Number of Sick, Infirm and Healthy Persons constantly in the House.			The Total Number of Males and Females Admitted, Discharged (Deaths inclusive), and the Total Number of Deaths.						Total Number admitted ill, the Total Number attacked after entering, and the Deaths among this Class.		
						Admitted.		Discharged, (Deaths inclusive.)		Total Number of Deaths.				
	Males.	Females.	Sick.	Infirm.	Healthy.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Admitted ill.	Attacked after entering.	Deaths.
10 Metropolitan Workhouses * - -	1,252	1,926	462	1,591	1,125	2,316	2 942	2,174	2,749	402	504	1,318	651 ?	411
100 Workhouses in various Counties † -	4,650	4,485	945	2,864	5,334	10,764	9,172	8,935	7,341	970	676	2,717	5,885	1,057

* St. Matthew, Bethnal Green; Holborn, Upper Workhouse; Holborn, Lower Workhouse; St. Martin-in-the-Fields; Poplar; Portugal-street, Strand; Cleveland-street, Strand; St. Giles, Camberwell Parish; St. George the Martyr, Southwark; St. Mary, Rotherhithe.

† The Workhouses appear to be classed in Counties, and the Counties are classed alphabetically; the 100 Workhouses given here occur first in order.

Results deducible from the above Facts.

	Average Number of Paupers in each Workhouse.	Average Number constantly Sick in each Workhouse.	Proportions of 100 Paupers			Annual Deaths out of 100 constantly resident.			Proportion Sick in 100 admitted.	To 100 resident Paupers, annual Cases of Sickness.		Deaths out of 100 Cases treated.
			Sick.	Infirm.	Healthy.	Males.	Females.	Mean.		Total.	Occurring in the House.	
10 Metropolitan Workhouses - - -	317·80	46·20	14·5	50·1	35·4	32·1	26·2	29·1	25	62	20 ‡	46 ‡
100 other Workhouses - - - -	91·35	9·45	10·3	31·3	58·3	20·9	15·1	18·0	14	94	64	19

	Mean Term of Residence.		Mean Duration of Cases in the House.	Deaths out of 100 Sick a Year.	Years of Sick Time to 1 Death.
	Males.	Females.			
10 Metropolitan Workhouses - - - - -	210 days - -	256 days - -	86 days ‡ - -	196	·51
100 other Workhouses - - - - - -	190 days - -	223 days - -	40 days - -	174	·63

‡ All the cases of sickness in the Metropolitan Workhouses, have apparently not been reported.

Proposed Average Annual Salaries.

At £.4 per annum (£. 2. medicine, £. 2. advice) for each person constantly sick.

10 Metropolitan Workhouses (46·2 × £.4.) - £. 185

100 Workhouses in the Country (9·45 × £.4.) - £. 38

In large Workhouses like Saint Matthew's, Bethnal Green, two Medical Officers should be employed. A Dispensary may be connected with the establishment.

FORTY-FOURTH, FORTY-FIFTH AND FORTY-SIXTH

REPORTS

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIXES.

(MEDICAL INQUIRY.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
20 & 22 *June* 1838.

[*Price* 1*s.* 7*d.*]

518.

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FORTY-SEVENTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
22 *June* 1838.

[*Price* 7½*d.*]

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Lunæ, 27° *die Novembris*, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° *die Februarii*, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

THE REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - p. iii
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - - p. 1
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 33

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the RELIEF of the POOR under the Orders and Regulations issued by the COMMISSIONERS appointed under the Provisions of the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them from time to time to THE HOUSE;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

22 *June* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Thomas Nixon, Esq. - - - - - - - p. 1

Edward Gulson, Esq. - - - - - - - p. 26

Robert Weale, Esq. - - - - - - - - p. 31

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Lunæ, 25° die Junii, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Scrope.
Mr. Langdale.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Nixon, Esq., called in; and Examined.

T. Nixon, Esq.

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16103. Mr. *Miles.*] YOU have been for sometime a magistrate in the county of Nottingham?—Yes.

16104. For how many years?—Eleven or twelve years.

16105. Have you, during that time, turned your attention a good deal to the Poor Law?—Very much; nobody more so.

16106. What was the system generally adopted throughout Nottingham previous to the introduction of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—We had two very large unions, the Basford Union, of which I was visitor, and Southwell, of which Mr. Beecher was visitor; Basford included 40 parishes, with a population of 54,000 persons.

16107. How long have you been visitor of the Basford incorporation?—I am not quite sure whether I was re-elected five or six times; but it was either one or the other.

16108. How did that take place?—By the board of guardians; they nominated three; they returned three to the magistrates, and the magistrates generally elected the first upon the list.

16109. Was that the case during the time you were elected?—Yes.

16110. And that by the voices of the members of the incorporation?—I believe I may say by the unanimous voice of the board each time.

16111. Will you describe the system you adopted as regards the relief you gave in the Basford incorporation?—The system that we adopted was very little different from the system adopted under the Poor Law Act; our general rule was, that no out-door relief should be given to the able-bodied paupers, but exceptions were occasionally made to that general rule, with the leave of the guardians and the visitors.

16112. Mr *Hodges.*] What was the date of that general rule?—I found it so when I went into the union.

16113. When was that?—It must be seven or eight years since I became visitor; and the only difference was that I took rather more pains, and carried it into more strict effect than it had been before.

16114. Mr. *Miles.*] Was not that rule contrary to the principle of the Gilbert Act?—Upon reading the Act I should certainly have thought so; and if I had not found that the Court of King's Bench had given a different opinion upon the construction of that Act, I never should have accepted the office of guardian.

16115. Who were the persons usually elected as the guardians of the parishes of that incorporation?—They were principally the most respectable farmers.

16116. Were not the assistant-overseers frequently elected guardians?—Now and then, not very often; I think not more than two or three out of the whole union.

16117. Was there a different system of relief carried on in the incorporation and in the parishes joined to the incorporation; was there a difference of practice between the overseers of the poor and the guardians of the parishes?—By the Gilbert Act the overseer is prohibited from interfering with the relief; he has nothing to do, under Gilbert's Act, but to collect the rates.

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16118. Did the magistrates interfere in any way?—I never knew an instance of the magistrates interfering; there is a clause in the Act, that if the pauper is dissatisfied with the decision of the guardian he may then appeal to the visitor; but if that visitor does not reside within six miles of his dwelling, then he may in that case appeal to the magistrates. I believe those appeals were of very rare occurrence, and I do not know that I can recollect an instance of one: there are eight or nine parishes adjoining not included in those unions.

16119. What was the state of the rates in the parishes comprised in the incorporation at the time that you became visitor of the incorporation?—This union commenced about the year 1815 or 1816, and it was dissolved in 1836, and during that time the population of that union had increased 15,244, and in Annesley the expenses in 1816, of maintaining the poor, were 203*l.* 11*s.*, and when it was dissolved in 1836 they were 163*l.*; that is a small agricultural parish, and there was not much alteration; with respect to Basford, I am informed that there is a mistake, and therefore I will not quote it.

16120. Can you give the gross?—I have the gross, but it only includes some of the parishes, because some new parishes had been brought in; and this gives the expense of those which originally joined the union, and of those the diminution is from 12,720*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, which was the expense in 1811, to 8,993*l.*, with an increased population, amounting to nearly 15,000.

16121. Were the inhabitants, generally speaking, perfectly satisfied with the control exercised by this incorporation?—I believe so; I never heard any thing to the contrary.

16122. Was there any meeting, previously to the Poor Law Amendment Act being brought into operation in Nottingham, for the purpose of dissolving the incorporation?—Yes.

16123. Did you attend that meeting?—I did.

16124. Did you agree on the part of Basford to the proposal made by Mr. Gulson?—Not at all; I dissented from it.

16125. What were the causes which led the board at Basford afterwards to disunite from the incorporation and to join the union?—I met Mr. Gulson at Southwell; I had had a letter from him in which he proposed to come to my house; something however prevented him; but when I met him at Southwell, Colonel Coape introduced me to him; I then said to Mr. Gulson, "We have a population of 54,000 people in our union, and we have not an able-bodied pauper in the house; if you can suggest any thing that will be any improvement to us, I am sure I shall be extremely happy to put it into execution:" Mr. Gulson's reply was, "But you have had able-bodied paupers in the house?" "Yes," my reply was, "we have had, and if we did not take them in, we might as well shut up the house." His answer was, "You shall not have them in future:" I replied, that I thought I should go on in the same way as I had always done. His reply was, "If you do, I will indict you." There were two magistrates present at the same time; Mr. Gulson then said, "As to you, gentlemen of Basford,"—whether he said, "gentlemen of Basford," or "people of Basford," I cannot say,—"I have you safe enough; I shall fine you 4,000*l.*" "Indeed," I said, "what is that for?" he replied, "You have taken 16 parishes in which are not legally incorporated, and I shall take all those out of your union, and I shall make you pay back the whole of the money," which amounted to something better than 4,000*l.*; that was all that passed then, but the same argument was repeated both at Southwell, and at Basford; this was privately, in the street, before two of the magistrates; those 16 parishes had been incorporated some years, but they had neglected to enrol themselves with the clerk of the peace; that, I believe, constituted the informality; I am not aware of any other.

16126. Then was the commission of this error the reason of the Basford Incorporation breaking up and becoming a union?—I think it was the apprehension that they should have some application made to them of that kind; however, now I will state what passed at the dissolution of the Basford Union; a great number of gentlemen in the neighbourhood met Mr. Gulson at Basford, and he there told them that it would be very much to our advantage; that there were those 16 parishes which he should take out; that we should have to refund the money to them; that he should insist upon every guardian being fined 40*s.* who did not attend; and that, under the present Act of Parliament, there was no fine at all, and they had no occasion to attend without they liked. This was at a meeting at Basford; the guardians declined to come to any decision then, and

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and there was another meeting; and in the meantime the guardians had a meeting, and they came to some resolutions, a copy of which I have with me.

16127. What was the nature of those resolutions?—The resolutions dissolving the late Basford Union; they were extremely reluctant to do it. I have another observation to make; some of the guardians asked whether they would not be likely to be involved in a law-suit, and Mr. Gulson's reply was, "To a certainty, and you will have the whole weight of Government against you." Now here is the resolution to which we came: "That as by the 32d section of the new Poor Law Act no dissolution of this union can, under it, take place without two-thirds of the guardians of the union concur thereto, and by the said section, such majority of guardians may propose terms of concurrence, the following be proposed as the said terms: That in case of consenting to the dissolution of this union, the guardians are convinced that they are not conferring any advantage on their respective parishes, on the contrary, they believe that the system of management hitherto practised by them under Gilbert's Act is much more simple in detail as well as much more easy and economical in practice than the system proposed by the Commissioners; but it has been stated to them by Mr. Assistant-commissioner Gulson, that great public inconvenience would arise from parishes intermixed with this union being obliged to unite with others at a great distance, and more especial ly as it appears that 16 parishes now subscribing to this house are, from some neglect or informality, not legally incorporated; and as the Assistant-commissioner has stated it to be the determination of the chief Commissioners to remove the whole of them from the union, in case of our refusal to dissolve, which might be attended with very serious loss to them, we therefore offer the following terms: 1st. That in case of the dissolution of this union, any of the parishes now forming part of it, and which shall remain in it, shall not be called upon to pay any sum to the parishes taken away, or towards any expenses of those about to be admitted. 2nd. That the Commissioners guarantee to the parishes taken out that the amount to be paid by the new parishes be sufficient to pay the respective shares of the retiring parishes. 3rd. That the parishes of Radford, Lenton and Snienton shall form no part of the new union at Basford. 4th. That these resolutions be submitted to Mr. Gulson, and his concurrence obtained, previously to voting for or against a dissolution. Agreed to, on the part of the Commissioners of Poor Laws, by Edward Gulson." Now here is another resolution very flattering to myself; I was not present when it was carried; it will bear upon another question which will be put by and by, "That before this union dissolve, they consider it due to their visitor, Thomas Nixon, esq., for his anxious desire to promote the interests of the several parishes and his indefatigable exertions in assisting the guardians in the discharge of their duties, to request him to accept their sincere thanks for his continued and kind attendance." I only read this because Mr. Gulson has stated in another part of his evidence that I was elected chairman of the board by his advice.

16128. In consequence of a resolution of the board of guardians, were you elected chairman of the union?—I was unanimously elected, and I declined to take the office; but eventually I did so, at the request of Colonel Coape; he came to me, and told me that they had nobody whom they could get; that nobody had taken the pains that I had done in these matters; that he knew that I had great reluctance to take the office; but he said if I would be the chairman, he would be the deputy chairman; I wished him to be the chairman, he being an older magistrate, and he said, "No, it is a subject that I have not much knowledge of;" and, under those circumstances, was I elected, and not under the advice of Mr. Gulson, nor had he, that I am aware of, any thing to do with it.

16129. How long did you remain in the situation of chairman of the union?—Not more than three months, I think.

16130. Did you attend any of the first meetings?—Yes, I did.

16131. What was your reason for resigning that situation?—I have with me the letter [*see* p. 24.] that contains the cause of my immediate resignation; I found that the guardians were induced, by Mr. Gulson's interpretation of the Act, and his representations, to do what I considered extremely illegal, and, in many instances, I know that they were illegal; therefore, finding that I could not control them from doing this, which I thought an oppressive and illegal act, I made up my mind to resign; but I may say that Colonel Coape had resigned three weeks before me, and I was left without a single magistrate in the county,

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without a single gentleman in the county, without any one individual of influence coming near the board.

16132. At the early meetings of the board, did the *ex-officio* guardians attend it?—Yes, a good many attended it the first day of meeting.

16133. What were the acts to which you allude, which were oppressive and illegal?—In the first place, Mr. Gulson insisted that all the bastard children should be struck off the books, and have no relief out of the house, and he struck them off with his own hand (and there is his writing in the book now) to the number of 111 in the two districts.

16134. Was that the only reason?—That was one; and that was the reason Colonel Coape resigned—[*see* p. 24]—he said he would not be the instrument of doing an illegal act; it referred to those born before as well as after the passing of the Act; and I see that Mr. Gulson has stated that he never interfered with those persons. This is the question 1652: "But you never make it one of the conditions of relief, that the mother shall come in?—Not of those that were born previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act. That has not been at all your case in any of the unions you have formed?—No, it has not. Do you conceive that they are entirely excluded, as the law at present stands, from being, as it were, affiliated to the mother?—I do, and that is the distinct line that I have drawn in all unions under my charge?" Now Mr. Gulson made no sort of distinction between the children born before the passing of the Act and those born after the passing of the Act; and he insisted upon it that all children, whether born before or after the passing of the Act, should receive no relief out of the house.

16135. And at the same time that, if they had relief in the workhouse, the mothers should have the relief with them?—The mothers were to come into the house with them, because the guardians would not take the children in without the mothers; if they had done so, they would have converted the workhouse into a foundling hospital at once; there was no distinction made between one and the other; they were all struck off.

16136. *Chairman.*] You mean that the out-door relief was discontinued in every instance, without any inquiry into the circumstances of each case?—Without any inquiry at all; Mr. Gulson had the revising book, and he took it up, and he scratched every one of them off, under the head of bastards.

16137. Was that at a meeting of the board of guardians?—Yes.

16138. Did Mr. Gulson strike out those names without taking the opinion of the board upon it?—That I cannot speak to, I was not present on that day.

16139. Do you know what took place on that day?—I only know from the books themselves.

16140. When you say that Mr. Gulson took it upon himself to strike off those names, do you mean that it was done by Mr. Gulson upon his own authority, or that it was done by the board of guardians?—I will read the resolution which will explain it; the board of guardians came to this resolution on the 2d of August 1836.

16141. Mr. *Miles.*] How long was that after the formation of the union?—It was formed on the 25th June; there had been nothing but perpetual discussions upon the subject of these bastardy clauses; I do not mean to say that Mr. Gulson was not authorized by the Commissioners, because I have a letter of the Commissioners, in which they go the full length; this is the resolution of the board: "That in all cases of bastardy previous to the passing of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, where the money is received from the fathers by the overseers, the overseers shall pay the allowance as usual; and in cases where the fathers do not pay, the children be considered paupers, and reported to the relieving officer, who shall place them on his list." This is taken from the minute-book, signed, William Austin, clerk. [*The previous question put by the Chairman was read.*] —I was not present at the time, but I saw Mr. Gulson's signature in the books to every one of those cases.

16142. Do you know what took place at the board of guardians upon this subject?—I do not, except from hearsay.

16143. You said that there had been a great deal of discussion at the board upon this subject?—That was upon the first meetings after the union was in operation.

16144. Have you been present on any day at the board of guardians when there was any discussion upon the subject of the allowances to bastards?—Very frequently it occupied three-fourths of our time.

16145. What

16145. What was the result of those discussions?—The result of those discussions was this, that it was resolved, on the 2d of August, that, "In all cases of bastardy previous to the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, where the money is received from the fathers by the overseers, the overseers shall pay the allowance as usual, and in cases where the fathers do not pay, the children be considered paupers, and reported to the relieving officer, who shall place them on this list."

16146. My understanding of that resolution is, that a certain number of those bastard children, where the allowance is continued to be paid, would have continued to remain out of the workhouse, and would not receive any parish allowance?—Exactly.

16147. Then with reference to the bastards who received parish allowance, they were placed upon the list of paupers?—Yes; but it was to be considered what was to be done with them afterwards.

16148. And they then came under the notice of the board of guardians?—They would have done, under this resolution.

16149. How then did the board of guardians deal with them when they came under their notice?—It never did come under their notice, I believe, because on September the 13th, only two or three meetings afterwards, there is the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Gulson, and seconded by Mr. Kempson, "That the resolution of August the 2d be rescinded, and the following be adopted, That no out-door relief be afforded to bastard children born before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, excepting a small amount of relief in extraordinary cases."

16150. What is the date of those resolutions?—One is August the 2d and the other is September the 13th.

16151. Was the second resolution adopted by the board of guardians?—It was.

16152. In what sense then do you describe this as the act of Mr. Gulson, when they were determinations come to by the board?—But it was from Mr. Gulson's influence over them; he has stated, in his evidence, that he never attempted to interfere.

16153. Then you suppose that the board of guardians came to those resolutions which you have read, under the influence of Mr. Gulson?—I can hardly come to any other conclusion when I see them come to one resolution on the 2d of August, and when I see a totally opposite resolution, proposed by Mr. Gulson, and seconded by Mr. Kempson, on the 13th of September, a very short time afterwards.

16154. Were you present at the board on the 13th of September?—I do not think I was.

16155. Mr. *Hodges.*] Was that after you resigned the chairmanship?—I think it was; those discussions were very disagreeable; one set of guardians thinking that they ought not to have the children in the house, that it was contrary to the opinion of the Court of King's Bench upon the subject, and they did not wish it; Colonel Coape resigned on the 22d of August, and I think I resigned a fortnight afterwards.

16156. *Chairman.*] You do not know whether you were present upon that occasion or not?—I believe I was not.

16157. You were present at several of the discussions that took place upon the subject of allowances to bastards, were you not?—Yes, a great many.

16158. Was there much difference of opinion in the board of guardians upon that subject?—I think there was not a great deal of difference of opinion, as to whether they should be taken in or not, but Mr. Gulson, in my hearing, advised them to take them in; and he said, "I tell you it will tell;" it was his particular expression, "I know if you do not relieve them, except in the workhouse, it will tell;" which meant, that the mothers would maintain them themselves rather than come into the house.

16159. Had Mr. Gulson advised the board of guardians to take the children into the workhouse?—Yes.

16160. Was there much discussion upon the subject?—Yes, there was discussion every day that the board met, and Mr. Gulson said the Commissioners would not allow out-door relief to be given to them, that it was illegal.

16161. Do you mean to say that Mr. Gulson stated, that the out-door allowance to bastards, under the circumstances you have described, was illegal?—Yes, I do mean to say so; I heard him say it repeatedly.

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16162. Had you any rule sent down by the Commissioners to the union, prohibiting you from giving out-door relief to any description of paupers?—Yes; a rule prohibiting out-door relief to able-bodied paupers; I have the rule here.

16163. At what time was that?—We had that in the first instructions; but there was some little latitude in that.

16164. Had you refused out-door relief to able-bodied before?—Yes, we had.

16165. With regard to bastards, in the cases you have described, had you any instructions from the Commissioners, saying that you were not authorized to give out-door relief?—Here is a letter transmitted to the board of guardians from the Commissioners, for their guidance.

16166. Will you read that, and any other correspondence which you have had with the Commissioners upon the subject?—This was a letter addressed to Mr. Gulson; it appears to be in answer to some communication which Mr. Gulson had had with the Poor Law Commissioners upon that subject; it is dated the 11th of July 1836.

16167. From whom and to whom is that letter?—From the Poor Law Commissioners to Mr. Gulson, and by him forwarded to the board of guardians of the Basford Union, for their guidance.

"The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, in reference to your letter of the 8th instant, in which you inquire, Can the guardians of any union refuse out-door relief to bastards born previous to the passing of that Act, where an order has been made on the putative father? and, Have the magistrates any power whatever to order parish officers or others to give out-door relief in such cases where the guardians offer in-door maintenance?—desire to make the following communication:—

1st. An order on the putative father, whether under the 18th Elizabeth or under the Poor Law Amendment Act, only imposes obligations on the father, and does not subject the parish to any new liability whatever.

As to the duty of guardians in such cases, they are under no obligation to give relief in any other than the ordinary manner, but are bound to exercise the discretion, with which they are exclusively invested by the 54th section, in ordering such relief as may appear to them necessary. In using this discretion, they will use such tests of the necessities of the bastard child as may appear to them most satisfactory; and the mother being rendered liable by the 18th Elizabeth to maintain her bastard, the child cannot be destitute until the mother is destitute or until the mother has deserted it. If the mother applies to be relieved of the burthen of maintaining the child, it is incumbent on her to prove her inability to do so, to the satisfaction of the guardians, who may, in the exercise of their discretion, require such evidence of that fact as can be alone afforded by her accepting relief in the workhouse.

The Commissioners are fully aware of the somewhat questionable decision on the case Rex *v.* Haigh, turning upon the effect of the peculiar words of the 9th Geo. 1, c. 7, s. 4, in cases where mothers applied for relief for their children only; but, admitting the full force of the decision on that case upon the effect of the 9th Geo. 1, c. 7, as withdrawing overseers who had offered relief in the workhouse from the authority of justices, the Commissioners conceive that it is wholly inapplicable to the exclusive discretion of guardians and to the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

2dly. This brings into consideration your second question, whether the justices are authorized to order out-door relief to bastards upon whose supposed father orders of filiation have been made under the 18th Elizabeth. The justices have no duties or powers with respect to the relief of bastards, differing from those which regard the relief of all other classes of paupers; the only peculiar powers of justices with regard to them is as to the indemnification of the parish. The only case in which justices can order out-door relief (as contradistinguished from relief in a workhouse) are those of adults unable to work through old age or infirmity of body, provided for by the 27th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act; the 54th section confers no power on them to order out-door relief even in cases of sudden and urgent necessity or illness, if relief be provided by either the overseer or guardians.

The opinion that justices have any power to order out-door relief to bastards the Commissioners consider as wholly unfounded.

The Commissioners think it desirable to add, that though the guardians are wholly independent of the powers of justices in the ordering of relief (except under the 27th section, as above described), and are therefore unaffected by the provisions of the 9th Geo. 1. upon which the case of Rex *v.* Haigh arose, still that the guardians, in the use of the discretion with which they are now exclusively invested, are bound to apply the tests of destitution with a careful regard to their adoption to each case; but the law has subjected them to no other restraint in the use of their discretion than the liability to penal consequences, when there is a criminal neglect of their duty as guardians of the poor.

By order of the board. (signed) *E. Chadwick*, Secretary.

To Edward Gulson, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

16168. Do

16168. Do not the Poor Law Commissioners, in that letter, leave the discretion to the board of guardians from beginning to end?—Yes.

16169. You say that Mr. Gulson said that out-door relief to bastard children was illegal?—Yes.

16170. You read the letter from the Commissioners to Mr. Gulson, which letter was to be communicated to the board; and in that letter do they not say that the board of guardians must exercise their discretion upon the subject, applying such tests as they think necessary?—Yes, but that test is the workhouse; "such evidence of that fact as can be alone afforded by her accepting relief in the workhouse;" and therefore I say that there is a variance between that letter and the resolution of Mr. Gulson's, that all children shall come into the workhouse; and I produce it to show that Mr. Gulson did make it a point that those children should come into the workhouse.

16171. Mr. *Hodges.*] After that letter was received, did Mr. Gulson make any change in that point?—After that letter was received, Mr. Gulson proposed this resolution; this letter was the 11th of July, and Mr. Gulson's resolution prohibiting them from giving bastard children out-door relief, was the 13th of September.

16172. *Chairman.*] When you call it Mr. Gulson's resolution, it was the resolution of the board, was it not?—I call it Mr. Gulson's, because it was proposed by Mr. Gulson.

16173. Did you take that resolution from the minute-book of the board of guardians?—I sent to the clerk, and requested him to forward to me any resolution that had been passed at the board upon this subject.

16174. Did he do so?—He furnished me with these resolutions.

16175. Did he state whether there was any difference of opinion in the board of guardians upon these resolutions?—No, he did not; I did not see him at that time; but the unanimous opinion of a board on one Tuesday may be different from the unanimous opinion of a board on another Tuesday, for out of 47 elected guardians there are only seven who have attended, upon the average, for the last six months.

16176. Do you know how many were present on that day?—No.

16177. Did any further communication take place between you and the Poor-Law Commissioners on that subject?—There was a letter from the Commissioners to the board of guardians, in which they seemed to express some very strong opinions, as if the magistrates had been in the habit of interfering very much in the business; this is a letter to the board of guardians of Basford: "10th of August 1836. The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter;" I need not perhaps read that letter, but the particular passage which gave occasion to the correspondence with the magistrates is this: "To that section is added the following sentence which appears to be as restrictive of the powers of justices as words can well be; but it shall not be lawful for any justice to order relief to any person from the poor-rates of any such parish, except as hereinbefore provided." When this letter came down, the magistrates thought it very extraordinary, as they had not interfered in any manner, and they supposed that a representation had been made to the effect, that they had interfered, and they directed Mr. Sculthorpe, the clerk, to write this letter, "The county magistrates having perused your letter of the 16th instant, addressed to Mr. W. Ashton, clerk to the Basford Union, are led to suppose, from the general tenor thereof, and particularly from that passage beginning with 'To that section is added the following sentence, which appears to be as restrictive of the powers of justices as words can well be,' that the Poor-Law Commissioners are of opinion that they wish to interfere with or to oppose the rules or regulations adopted by the Commissioners for the relief of the poor, which not being the fact, they have directed me to inform you that they are fully aware of the restrictions and limitations to their jurisdiction contained in the Poor-Law Amendment Act to which your letter refers, and that it is for them now, as heretofore, only to put in force the amended laws as well as those which have not been repealed wherein they have jurisdiction; and as they have in many instances of late witnessed the supineness and neglect of duty on the part of parish officers with respect to the recovery of the money owing by the putative fathers of bastard children born previous to the passing of the Act, and on whom orders of affiliation have been made, particularly where such fathers have been better able than the mother to maintain such children, but which children were of necessity

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residing with the mother. The Poor Law Amendment Act, therefore, not having cancelled the obligation on the part of the father to contribute towards the maintenance of such children, nor imposed any new obligation upon the mother, the magistrates conceive that in every case where the father is of ability to perform his obligation, that he ought to be compelled, and that the mother ought not, through the negligence or neglect of duty on the part of a parish officer, to be rendered destitute, nor compelled to ask for relief, or to accept it by going into the workhouse, when by her own industry, together with the assistance to which she or the parish is entitled from the father, neither she nor the child would become chargeable, or require any relief out of the poor-rate; and the magistrates being of opinion that previous to the passing of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, a woman was not bound to maintain her bastard child, but only to contribute towards its support in the same manner as the father, and consequently that she was not compellable to go with it into the workhouse on becoming destitute; yet, not wishing to rest upon their own opinion alone, they requested me to state a case for the opinion of an eminent counsel on this circuit, and I am directed to inclose you a copy thereof, and of Mr. Whitehurst's opinion thereon." This is the case and opinion:

POOR LAW UNIONS.

County Hall, Nottingham, 22d July 1836.

Case.

In some of the parishes within the Basford Union, under the new Poor Law Amendment Act, there are several women having bastard children residing with them for nurture, which were born previous to the passing of the Act in question. Some of the women are single, and some were married before the Act passed, consequently, the putative fathers of such children are still liable to contribute and pay to the overseers of the parishes to which such children belong such weekly sum towards the maintenance of such children as is fixed by the orders of affiliation made upon them in sessions; but in many instances the overseers refuse to take any steps to recover the money from the putative fathers of such children. And the guardians under the above union have, by the direction of the Poor Law Commissioners, refused to grant any relief whatever (out of the workhouse) to the mothers of such children, although such relief is required for the children only, and not for themselves, consequently such mothers, whether married or single, being destitute and unable to maintain such children, can receive no relief, unless they will accept it by residing in the workhouse.

Previous to the passing of 4 and 5 Wm. 4, c. 76, for the amendment of the laws relating to the poor, a woman having a bastard child chargeable to the parish could not be compelled to go into the workhouse on asking for relief for such child only (see the case Rex *v.* Haigh and others, 4, Chetwynd, p. 217); consequently, it is presumed, that she was entitled to receive in money, from the overseers of her parish, the weekly sum paid by the putative father of her child, in pursuance of an order of affiliation, and by which order she was required to pay to the parish the weekly sum of 6*d.*, in case she should not nurse the child herself.

Your opinion is therefore requested—

1. Whether such guardians have any right by law to refuse relief, except in the workhouse?

2. And if they have not, how is the mother to obtain redress?

3. And in case she shall go into the workhouse by order of the board of guardians, and subsequently quit the house, leaving the child behind her, can she be otherwise punished than by calling upon her to pay the 6*d.* a week ordered by the justices in sessions on the affiliation of her child.

4. And in case she shall have been married before the passing of the Act, can her husband be compelled to maintain her bastard child?

5. And can the woman be separated from her husband for the purpose of going with her child into the workhouse against her consent?

Section 71 in the above statute enacts, "That children born bastards after the passing of the Act shall have and follow the mother's settlement till 16 years of age, unless they sooner acquire a settlement in their own right." And the mother, so long as she shall be unmarried or a widow, shall be bound to maintain such child as a part of her family, until it shall attain the age of 16, and all relief granted to such child while under the age of 16 shall be considered as granted to such mother.

Is it not to be inferred from this section, that before the passing of the Act relief granted to the child was not relief to the mother? And is it not also to be inferred, that the mother was not liable by the old law to maintain her bastard child? For according to the statute of 18 Eliz. c. 3, s. 2, two justices were empowered to charge such mother or reputed father with the payment of money weekly or other sustentation for the relief of such child, in such manner as they might think fit, and in default of performing such order, the party making default to be committed to prison, &c.

A letter

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A letter from the secretary to the Poor Law Commissioners on this subject is hereto annexed, to which you are referred, and particularly to that part wherein the Commissioners state, that the mother is rendered liable by the statute of 18 Elizabeth to maintain her bastard child; the magistrates being of opinion, on referring to that statute, that the mother is only rendered liable to perform such order as shall have been made upon her by the justices, either in petty or general quarter sessions, on the affiliation of her child. And with reference to the latter part of the letter in question, where Mr. Chadwick states, "that the law has subjected the guardians to no other restraint in the use of their discretion, than the liability to penal consequences, where there is a criminal neglect of their duty as guardians of the poor."

6. The magistrates wish to put the following case for your opinion, viz.:—If a woman in a state of destitution apply to the guardians for relief for her bastard child, and is ordered into the workhouse, but refuses to go, and in consequence of her inability to give the child necessary support, it happens to die, who is liable to be indicted for the criminal neglect alluded to? the board consisting of 45 guardians, exclusive of the two chairmen, and probably a very few of these present, and the refusal of relief carried only by a small majority.

W. Sculthorpe,
Clerk to the Magistrates.

To C. H. Whitehurst, Esq.

OPINION.

I AM of opinion, that previous to the passing of the 18th Eliz., the mother could not have been compelled to support her illegitimate child. The common law regarded a bastard as *filius nullius*, and seems to have singularly disregarded them. The statute of 18th Eliz., empowers the justices to make an order upon the father or mother for the maintenance of the bastard, in whole or in part; the mother is liable, therefore, to the extent only prescribed by the magistrates by virtue of that statute, and that in the present cases appears to have been, to pay a certain sum weekly, or nurse the child. If she pays that sum weekly, or offers to nurse the child, she performs the order, and, I am of opinion, is under no further liability by the old law as it stood before the passing of 4 and 5 Will. 4, c. 76, nor is she liable under this latter statute.

I think, too, that previous to that statute, the woman could not be compelled to go into the workhouse; and Rex *v.* Haigh is a direct authority to that effect, and in the decision of that case I quite concur.

I do not see that the statute of 4 and 5 Will. 4, c. 76, has made any difference in this respect. There is a great deal of obscurity in that Act, and the case of infant illegitimate children born before the passing of the Act manifestly was not adverted to. I agree the 27th section gives the magistrates no jurisdiction, for that is confined to another class of persons, viz. adults; and I conceive the guardians have a right to direct the child to be taken into the house, but not the mother. Section 52 does not apply to children, but only to able-bodied persons who might be in service. Perhaps the 54th section gives the guardians power to direct relief to a child in the workhouse only; but there, in my opinion, the section stops.

I think previous to 4 and 5 Will. 4, the mother was not as of right entitled to receive the money from the putative father, though the parish might adopt the course of paying it to her if they pleased. I am of opinion that—

1. The guardians have no right to refuse relief, although the mother refuses to go into the workhouse.

2. The mother may leave the child with the overseer or in the workhouse. I am not aware of any provision for punishing the mother if she leaves the child in the workhouse; but as I have no books on the subject here, I cannot undertake to say that no Act of Parliament exists rendering her liable to punishment; unless there is some special Act of Parliament on the subject, she could only be liable to contribute her sixpence a week.

4. If married before passing of the Act, her husband cannot be compelled to maintain her bastard child.

5. The woman cannot be separated from her husband for the purpose of going with her child into the workhouse against her consent.

The 56th section does not apply to illegitimate children; and sections 57 and 71 are strong confirmations (if any are wanting) of the view of the case I have taken.

6. In answer to this question, if the woman refuses to go into the workhouse (the woman in my opinion not being compelled to go there), and the child dies under the circumstances stated, those members of the board who concur (and those only) are liable to be indicted.

Leicester, 28 July 1836. *C. H. Whitehurst.*

A great number of the mothers of those children have been married since the children were born, and it was a difficulty to know how to deal with them, because there is no power under the law to separate children under the eye of nurture.

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16178. That opinion was submitted to Mr. Whitehurst by the magistrates of Nottingham?—Yes; this letter which I now produce is a letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, upon that case and opinion having been forwarded to them by the magistrates, dated 3d September 1836.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
Sir, 3d September 1836.

The Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th ultimo, with one enclosure, being a copy of a case and of counsel's opinion thereon.

In reference to the remarks contained in your letter, the Poor Law Commissioners wish to state that they are, and always have been, thoroughly convinced that the proceedings of the magistrates of the county of Nottingham with relation to the relief to be given to bastards born before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, have been prompted solely by their sincere desire to leave no part of their duty undone; and that in so performing their duty, they have no desire whatever to exceed it; and the Commissioners trust that they will be acquitted of any intention of expressing a contrary opinion in the words of their letter of the 10th ultimo, to which you advert.

With respect to the residue of your letter, the Commissioners infer from it, that the justices adhere to the opinion that the overseers of parishes are under some legal obligation to cause the payments under an order of filiation to be made by the supposed father for the benefit of the child or the mother, or of both conjoined, whether the child be in the receipt of relief from the parish or not.

The Commissioners cannot hope that any further argument of theirs will now avail in producing a contrary impression. All, therefore, that they feel themselves justified in doing, is once more to refer the magistrates, not to any unauthorized but general practice, but to the 18th Eliz. c. 3, s. 2, which constitutes the law on the subject, an authority which the Commissioners hold paramount to all others, and to which all practice ought to have conformed, although it is unhappily to be admitted that it was, in fact, too generally opposed to it. The Commissioners will also request the magistrates to remark, first, that that statute only applies where the child is left to be kept at the charges of the parish, and that in any other case the statute does not apply, and the Commissioners request a particular attention to this fact, as they conceive that it is the whole ground of the difference of opinion between them and the magistrates; second, that it is the parish which the statute proposes to protect, not the mother, whom, on the contrary, it subjects to several liabilities, and on whom it confers no right whatever.

With respect to the practical bearings of the question, the Commissioners have to observe that they should feel that they were deserting one of the most momentous of their public duties were they to allow the law to be perverted from its obvious and beneficial object of repressing bastardy, to one utterly alien and hostile to it, namely, to the relief and even the reward of the mothers of bastards.

The Commissioners must, therefore, state, for the information of the magistrates, that they shall hold themselves prepared to issue injunctions to overseers of parishes in unions, or under the government of boards of guardians, not to interfere in any way in receiving of putative fathers the sums mentioned in orders of filiation, except where the guardians shall, in the exercise of their lawful discretion, order relief to the bastards. And even in the latter cases, as the relief will be administered in kind, that no money received by the overseers from the father, shall, on any pretext, be paid over to the mother.

Another point, upon which the Commissioners have been unsuccessful in explaining their views, is as to the test which the board of guardians are to use in judging of the propriety of giving relief to bastards. This matter is, as the Commissioners have taken care to propound it, in no way affected by the case stated for Mr. Whitehurst's opinion.

Where the mother leaves the child to be kept at the charges of the parish, the 18th Eliz. prescribes the remedy; but these are not the cases upon which the present discussion has arisen.

Where she applies for relief to the bastard (not leaving the child) the board of guardians, under the 54th section of the Poor Law Amendment Act, are the exclusive judges (subject to the regulations of the Commissioners) of the relief to be afforded, and are not answerable to the justices, or any other authority, for the way in which, within the limits of their discretion, they may come to their determination either to give or refuse relief. There exists no doubt that the guardians can, where they think proper, refuse relief, they being, however, legally responsible for the act.

The Commissioners have suggested as a proper, a practical and an intelligible test of the propriety of the mother's application for relief to her bastard, and one which, in their experience, has never led to an unsafe determination—the refusal of relief until the mother so far gives evidence of her inability to support her child that she leaves it (where the statute of Elizabeth comes into operation, and should be enforced against her); or that she applies for relief for herself in the workhouse, which the law has, since the 9th Geo. I., c. 7, always considered an adequate test of destitution of herself, and would, consequently, prove in a legal way her inability to maintain her bastard.

In adopting any test or criterion of destitution, the guardians may err, and whatever may be the test they use, they are responsible for the consequences of their ultimate determination; but however this determination is arrived at, they are responsible only for the act, not for the reasonings by which they arrive at their decision. As this applies equally to determinations

minations arrived at by the mere operations of the sentiments, or by the use of a clear and tangible and intelligible test, the Commissioners recommend the latter as preferable.

The Commissioners have taken care to admit the authority of the case Rex *v.* Haigh in all cases to which it applies, that is, in parishes having workhouses and governed by overseers, under the statute of Elizabeth, and they have only to refer the justices to the case itself, and the enactment of the 9th Geo. I., which it interprets; and a mere inspection of the latter will show the justices that the case has no relation or connexion with the authority of guardians, who combine in themselves the authority of the justices and overseers, the two parties whose several functions and authorities in the administration of relief was the object of the enactment to define, and of the case of Rex *v.* Haigh to settle upon one specific question.

Signed by order of the Board,

To M. Sculthorpe, Esq., Clerk to the Magistrates, Shire Hall, Nottingham.

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

16179. Mr. *Miles.*] Having read to the Committee those different letters, and having read counsel's opinion, and the Commissioner's reply to the counsel's opinion, have you, in the capacity of justice, made an order upon any parish to relieve parties who were unable to work?—I did; we have made two such orders at Nottingham.

16180. Has that been obeyed?—It was obeyed in one instance, I know; the order was made in order to try the legality of it.

16181. Do you know whether that was allowed or disallowed by the auditor in the account?—I have not heard that it has been disallowed, and the accounts have passed since.

16182. You would probably have heard if it had been disallowed?—I should.

16183. It was owing to those continued disputes relative to bastardy that you and Colonel Coape were led to resign your situations as chairman and deputy chairman of the board of guardians?—It was that principally.

16184. Will you turn to question 1644?—Just before that there is a statement which I wish to contradict: "1606. Then you found a great difference in respect to pauperism between those parishes which had not united in the incorporated Gilbert workhouses and those which had? I did not find much difference exist between the parishes united under the Gilbert incorporations and the other parishes in Nottinghamshire, except the district around Bingham, which was decidedly very much lower than any of them:" and Mr. Gulston says in his previous answer, that he attributes that to their having followed a very good example set them by Mr. Lowe, in the Bingham workhouse; the observation I have to make upon that is this, that the parishes that he alludes to surrounding Bingham and adjoining Bingham are every one of them in the Basford Union; and I think that fact ought not to be concealed from the Committee.

16185. So that in your conception the improvement was to be attributed to their being in the Basford Incorporation rather than any other cause?—That is my opinion; there is another error, in 1608; "Do you recollect the number of persons that were in the workhouse previously to your commencing operations? I think 120." Now I went to Basford, and I referred to that day; there is a letter of Mr. Gulson's which pointed out the day, and I found only 70, and during the six years that I was visitor there there never were 120 paupers in the workhouse at one time, to the best of my belief: with regard to 1644, it appears from this answer that Mr. Gulson had been asked whether the *ex-officio* magistrates had attended, and his answer is, "that they did attend on the first day, which they did in considerable numbers;" and Mr. Gulson states as the reason why those *ex-officio* magistrates ceased to attend, in the following answer; "A visitor of the old incorporation had managed the incorporation to a considerable degree by himself, or at least practically so; he was made chairman, by my advice, of the board of guardians, and the board of guardians would not allow the management to be conducted in the manner in which it had hitherto been conducted by the visitor; they complained of the exclusive manner in which it was done; open complaints were made to him, and unpleasant observations took place between them in consequence, and he withdrew long before the passing of this resolution; the chairman of the board of guardians at the time this resolution was passed is the chairman at this day, now a magistrate of the county, and constantly attends."

16186. What observation have you to make upon that?—I will only say that

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it is perfectly incorrect from one end to the other; in the first place I was not chosen by the advice of Mr. Gulson.

16187. *Chairman.*] "A visitor of the old incorporation had managed the incorporation, to a considerable degree, by himself, or at least practically so;" did you take the principal part in the management?—No otherwise than as chairman. "He was made chairman by my advice:" that I entirely deny. There had been a good deal of dissatisfaction at the dissolution of the old union; and my opinion is, that if Mr. Gulson had advised the board to elect me, and I had wished it, that it would have been materially against me. Then he says, "they complained of the exclusive manner in which it was done; open complaints were made to him." This is the reason which he gives why the magistrates retired, "and unpleasant observations took place between them in consequence, and he withdrew long before the passing of this resolution." That alludes to some resolution before, which I shall have something to say upon presently, about not giving any relief except in food. I deny that *in toto*, and I have documents here, which will confirm what I state, that there was no difference of opinion between me and the guardians; we differed in opinion upon the subject of the bastardy clauses, and upon that only; but it was only such a difference that persons might naturally have, and without any unpleasant feelings on one side or the other. "Open complaints were made to him, and unpleasant observations took place between them in consequence, and he withdrew long before the passing of this resolution. The chairman of the board of guardians at the time this resolution was passed is the chairman at this day, now a magistrate of the county, and constantly attends." Now that gentleman is not a magistrate of the county of Nottingham, and never was a magistrate of the county of Nottingham.

16188. To what gentleman do you allude?—To Mr. Smith, the treasurer of the union; and I certainly consider this a very offensive and very untrue representation of the state of the case.

16189. Mr. *Miles.*] Have the magistrates ever endeavoured to carry into effect that power which they conceive is given them by the clause in the new Poor Law Amendment Act, of making an order in the case of old people wholly unable to work?—I have made but two orders, but I shall never make any more.

16190. Have those orders been obeyed?—Yes, I believe they were; I have no reason to suppose the contrary.

16191. To what amount did you make those orders?—To no amount; only to give the necessary relief.

16192. Have you any other observations to make upon that point?—The clause, as interpreted by the Commissioners, seems to me to be perfectly nugatory and contrary to the meaning of the legislature; and I think that the Commissioners have no legal right to put such an interpretation upon it; I think that it is an illegal interpretation; I think that the clause was simply this—and it is obviously its meaning—that in case the board of guardians should think it necessary to press hard upon old and infirm men and to order them into the workhouse, that two magistrates, one of whom shall certify his knowledge of the inability of the man to work, should have the power of ordering the man relief without going into the workhouse; but the Commissioners say that the board of guardians after having refused relief, if the magistrates make an order, have the power of giving what they think proper, or next to nothing.

16193. *Chairman.*] Who says that the board of guardians, under the circumstances you have mentioned, have the power of giving next to nothing?—I mean that they have the power of giving what they please.

16194. Do you not think that the board of guardians should exercise a discretion upon the subject?—I think that they should not exercise a discretion; I am no advocate for placing the power in the magistrates, but if that clause meant any thing, it meant to protect these poor people from the board of guardians pressing too severely upon them.

16195. Mr. *Miles.*] You conceive that it was the intention of the legislature, when they gave that power to the magistrates, to give an appeal in a particular case against the orders of the board of guardians?—That is the construction which I should put upon the law, and it is the construction which plain common sense would put upon it.

16196. But from its having been decided that no magistrate may make an order

order upon the board of guardians, stating the amount, it has become perfectly nugatory?—So it appears to me; but every Member of the Committee is as good a judge upon that as I am.

16197. Do you think that, in any alteration of the law, there would be any objection to allow the magistrates the power which they appear to have under that clause; and should the board of guardians object to the amount stated by the magistrates, that the magistrates should have the power of hearing the relieving officer, and after so hearing the relieving officer, then make their order final and conclusive?—I would limit the powers of the magistrates as to the amount that they should give, to what the pauper would cost if he were in the house; I will state the principle upon which we acted in the Gilbert Union, and it is the same principle I act upon now; whenever there was an old and infirm person who did not wish to come into the house, we always offered him relief in money to the amount that it would cost if he were in the house; and if the pauper had any body to take care of him, and he were receiving 2*s.* 6*d.*, we generally limited it to that; with the assistance of this 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, I am quite satisfied that the pauper was better off than in the house.

16198. Mr. *Hodges.*] Do you consider that to be a just arrangement?—I think so.

16199. If a man is to be maintained out of the house, you say that you give him 2*s.* 6*d.* for his maintenance, the sum which it would cost if he were in the house; but you reckon nothing for house-rent or fuel; do you not think that a moderate allowance, in addition to the 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, ought to be given, so as to put the aged pauper out of doors upon precisely the same footing as he would be in?—Yes; I think if the magistrates were to make it 3*s.* a week, it would be satisfactory, or expunge the clause altogether, that would remain with the legislature.

16200. Mr. *Miles.*] Under the old law, in Nottingham, was there any relief given to the old, beyond 2*s.* 6*d.*?—That was the general amount; I am quite certain that, with an old and infirm man, who has nobody to look after him, 3*s.* a week is not sufficient; and if it were not for the assistance that he may receive from his friends and neighbours, I should say that he could not live upon 3*s.* a week, and if he has nobody to take care of him, he had better live in the house.

16201. But you had no complaints of the allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* under the old system?—Never.

16202. Why do you think it necessary to give 6*d.* a week more?—I do not think it would be necessary, but I think it would be just.

16203. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that a correspondence took place with relation to the interpretation to be put upon the 27th clause of the Poor Law Amendment Act, between the Poor Law Commissioners and the Assistant-commissioners of Somersetshire, with reference to some circumstances that occurred at Bath?—I have not seen that correspondence.

16204. Have you read the second report?—I have read part of it, but not all.

16205. This is the passage: "The Commissioners consider," with regard to the 27th section, "that the guardians are the proper judges of the amount of relief to be afforded; but if in cases where relief is actually necessary, they shall give merely nominal relief, this is *primâ facie* an invasion of the justice's order, and the justices may proceed against the guardians for such evasion, and the question will then be raised, whether the pauper is properly relieved or not? Relief only to the extent of a penny weekly would be virtually a non-compliance with the order." Do you not think under that interpretation put by the Commissioners upon this section of the Act, that it is incumbent on the guardians to afford adequate relief when two magistrates have made an order?—Yes, but I do not know where the remedy is if it is not afforded.

16206. Mr. *Miles.*] From the very words of that letter would it not appear that the remedy would be in the decision of the upper court of law?—Certainly.

16207. And that consequently the magistrates must go through the ordeal, at considerable expense before they can know whether their order is or is not valid?—Yes.

16208. During that time the poor individual who might be the subject of this appeal between the magistrates and the Poor Law Commissioners might die?—Certainly; very few magistrates would incur that risk and expense, and I do

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not know whom you are to prosecute; the board of guardians consist of 47 people, and upon an average only seven attend.

16209. *Chairman.*] With this general direction from the Commissioners, and with your knowledge of the disposition of boards of guardians, do you think, upon receiving an order from the magistrates to give out-door relief in the cases supposed, that they would give inadequate relief?—I cannot give any answer on that subject.

16210. Have you given any orders yourself?—I have given two, and two only.

16211. Were those complied with?—I have had no complaint that they were not complied with, and therefore I presume that they were.

16212. Do you know whether the relief given was adequate relief or not?—I do not; the people never came to me again, and I have no reason to suppose that it was not adequate,

16213. If they had not received adequate relief do you think they would have applied to you again?—Yes; but these people do not apply to the magistrates till the board of guardians have refused them relief, therefore it would raise a pique; I mean to throw no imputation upon the board, but very probably there would be a pique upon the part of the board of guardians; they might say, "Well, the justices may order relief, but we may say what amount it shall be."

16214. Are the board of guardians in the habit of compelling aged people to come into the house against their inclination?—I do not think they are, generally.

16215. You do not think that there are many of that class who would come under the operation of this provision?—I continued for only nine or ten weeks to be chairman of the board of guardians of Basford, so that I cannot speak particularly to that; I did see some cases when a particular class of the board or guardians were present, in which I thought the relief given was not sufficient.

16216. Not speaking of your experience as a member of the board, but as a magistrate, have you received many applications from old people saying that they were refused out-door relief?—Very few.

16217. Then would the result of your experience as a magistrate lead you to suppose that out-door relief was not refused to the aged?—I think that that clause has operated upon boards of guardians, not speaking particularly of the board of guardians of Basford, to induce them to give out-door relief to the old people, which they would not otherwise have done.

16218. Do you know any provision which forbids out-door relief being given to the aged?—No.

16219. Do you not know that the rules and regulations, in those cases where the peremptory rule is in force, prescribe that out-door relief shall not be refused to the aged?—I know nothing of any orders given to any boards of guardians.

16220. Mr. *Miles.*] Amongst other causes for your resignation, was one the refusal of relief to an idiot pauper, about 26 years of age, resident with an old man and woman, his father and mother?—Yes, that was the immediate cause.

16221. Will you state that case?—It was a pauper of the name of Lees, who resided with his father at Geddling, near Nottingham; he was a perfect idiot from childhood; he could not speak, and he was a very frightful object to look at; he could not dress himself, and his age was about 25, he was under 30; he applied; his father came with him; I think he said he was 64; he was rather lame, but he was in the receipt of 10*s.* a week from his labour; he applied to the board of guardians; we had had a discussion in the board of guardians before, and I had very fully explained the law to them; and I then told them, that they could not force a pauper to maintain a child above 16 years of age, or a child born deaf and dumb, as this was, under that age; but if they thought that the father could maintain the child, they were then to have him brought before the magistrates to have that point ascertained; and we had acted upon that before, and the question was brought before a magistrate. In this case of Lees, they came to a decision that they would afford him no relief at all; that his father was able to maintain him; and that they would afford him no relief whatever.

16222. *Chairman.*] Was that resolution come to by the board under the advice of Mr. Gulson?—No, I acquit Mr. Gulson of that.

16223. Did they hear the father?—Yes, the father was in the room; the father asked for 1*s.* 6*d.* a week; and I should have considered that he was contributing very largely to the maintenance of the son when he asked for only 1*s.* 6*d.*, because that man could not dress himself.

16224. What

16224. What were the circumstances of the father?—He was a day labourer, 64 years of age; he had a wife, but no other child; I reasoned with the board, and told them that they were acting perfectly illegally; that it was directly contrary to the law; that the question whether this man was able to maintain his child was not for them to decide, and that I thought that the Act of Elizabeth did not apply to labourers; that it was not considered that they were of that class; for it says, "sufficient ability;" that they could not say, that a man getting his daily bread was of sufficient ability; and I explained the law to them, and one of them said, "You are too tender-hearted; if we do stretch the law a bit, we do not think that there will be much harm in it if it does good to our parishes."

16225. Mr. *Miles*.] You found then, generally speaking, that the guardians of the Basford Union looked more to the saving of the rates than to the circumstances of the poor?—I should say not, generally; there are some individuals, I think, of the board of guardians of Basford, who in their situation in life are very respectable, but they have a very strong interest in keeping down the rates, which is not counteracted by any circumstances such as exist in the agricultural districts, because the paupers who receive the rates are not in the situation to be employed by the persons who distribute the rates, for they are all farmers, or principally; now, in the agricultural districts, I consider that that very order, that no relief should be given to the able-bodied out of the house, acts, *in terrorem*, not to the pauper, but to the farmer, because the farmer knows, if he sends a man and his wife and four children into the house, it will cost him 18*s*. 6*d*. a week, whereas, if he gives them good wages out of the house, it will be much more to his advantage; that is not the case in this union, because the people who receive relief are stocking-makers, and if the farmers wished ever so much to employ them, they are not capable of out-door labour; they are a different description of people.

16226. In contradiction to the statement which you have just made, I would ask you whether, during the late depression of trade in Nottingham, the labour test has not been applied with great efficacy?—It has; but the farmers could not employ them; if a farmer employs one of those men, he expects him to do an adequate amount of labour for his money; I do not know the fact, but I believe that if a farmer had had that quantity of work to do by his labourers which was done by those manufacturers of Nottingham in making a road, it would have been done at one quarter of the expense.

16227. *Chairman*.] You are speaking of the population composing the Basford Union generally, are you not?—Yes; on the south side of Nottingham they are principally agricultural, and there are not many.

16228. Were those parishes in the Basford Incorporation?—Yes, a great many of them, three-fourths of them, indeed almost all.

16229. You have stated that the practice in the Basford Incorporation for several years had been generally to give relief to the able-bodied within the workhouse?—Yes.

16230. How did you deal with this class of persons to the difficulty of whose situation you now refer, if your practice was to give them relief only in the workhouse?—That is the point where I differ, as to this Act; I say that there should be a discretion, and we did exercise that discretion: during the time that I was chairman of the union, I do not think there was ever a case of distress of this kind, and therefore I cannot say how we should have acted, but I am quite certain that we should never have thought of bringing them all into the workhouse.

16231. Speaking of the five or six years during which you were visitor, what was your practice as to the labourers?—Agricultural labourers are so fully employed that we seldom or ever had any application; if a man did apply, except it was from some sudden calamity, or some circumstance in his family that he could not control, I invariably, if I was applied to, ordered him into the workhouse.

16232. Generally speaking, was your practice in reference to the able-bodied to order them into the workhouse?—Yes, that was the general rule.

16233. And upon that you acted during the time you were visitor of Basford?—Yes.

16234. Did that apply to all the parishes which you say were partly agricultural and partly manufacturing?—Yes.

16235. What were the inconveniences which you felt in the exercise of that rule, or did you feel any?—I never felt any inconvenience, because in cases

where it was not desirable, from the man's previous good character, or from his habits of industry, where it was known that the man had done every thing he could to maintain himself, if it was not likely to continue, we gave him relief out of the house.

16236. Then what am I to understand—that your general practice was to give relief out of the house or give relief in the house?—No; the general rule was, that no relief should be given to the able-bodied out of the workhouse, though there were exceptions to that rule, at the discretion of the guardians.

16237. Were those exceptions numerous?—Very few indeed.

16238. How many able-bodied labourers, during the time that you were visitor of the Basford Incorporation, were receiving relief out of the workhouse?—The out-door relief did not come to the cognizance of the board of guardians, which I think is a defect in the Gilbert law; I do not know what amount of out-door relief there was, for that reason, but I have no reason to believe but that it was very small indeed.

16239. The out-door relief was not under the control of the meeting of the guardians?—No, it was not.

16240. Was it under the control of the separate parochial authorities?—It was under the control of the guardian of the parish.

16241. The guardian of the parish had it in his power to give out-door relief or not, at his discretion?—He had.

16242. Were the guardians in the habit of giving out-door relief?—I think very rarely; they all of them acted very much upon the principle of refusing relief, and when they refused relief the man had the right of appealing to the visitor; when I first went there I had a good many appeals.

16243. How did you deal with the appeals?—I adhered to the rule, except in particular cases.

16244. And you generally refused to sanction relief out of the workhouse?—Yes.

16245. You say there were exceptions; were those exceptions numerous?—No.

16246. What class would they be?—In this way, a man had a wife who was sick; he might have been sick himself, and his work might have fallen short for some time, or he might have been out of work for a short time, and in that case I should have advised the overseer to grant him a little temporary relief.

16247. In the event of any sickness in his family?—Or any calamity which came upon him, which reduced his means of subsistence, without any fault whatever of his own.

16248. What steps did you take to ascertain, in the few instances in which you gave out-door relief, whether the destitution of the party was real or pretended?—I took the man's statement always in writing, word for word; I took it from his mouth; I transmitted that back to the guardians of the parish, and I said, "If this man's statement is true, which you will inquire into, I think that he is entitled to some temporary relief; if it is not true, do not give him relief, but send him into the workhouse."

16249. And, generally speaking, where applications were made from the able-bodied, the general answer was the workhouse?—It was.

16250. Can you give any notion of the number of exceptions?—I cannot, because the out-door relief did not come within the management of the board of guardians as a board; the in-door did.

16251. Do you think it desirable that the question whether out-door relief should or should not be given should be left to the guardian of each parish, without the intervention of the board of guardians; do you think that part of the Gilbert Act a wise provision, which leaves it to the guardian of each parish?—I have before stated, that I think that a defect in the Gilbert law; I think it desirable that the guardian of the parish should have brought those cases of relief under the notice of the board at the monthly meeting.

16252. And that the decision should be, not the decision of the separate guardian, but of the whole board?—Yes.

16253. Mr. *Hodges.*] But that decision of the separate guardian was always subject to appeal to the visitor?—Yes.

16254. *Chairman.*] Under the present law all those questions are referred, are they not, to the board of guardians?—Yes, they are.

16255. Subject to the authority of the Commissioners?—Subject to the authority of the Commissioners.

16256. You

16256. You probably dislike the interposition of the Commissioners, but think that there should be a discretion lodged with the board of guardians?—I do.

16257. Do you think it desirable that there should be any rules and regulations with regard to relief laid down by the Poor Law Commissioners?—I think that there should be some rules and regulations, but I think that the board of guardians ought to have a discretion, they being on the spot; that in certain cases they should have the power of giving relief out of the house without an appeal to the Commissioners.

16258. Are you aware that, in the great majority of instances in which boards of guardians have been formed, that discretion has been left with the board of guardians, and that they have acted entirely upon their own convictions?—I cannot answer for what has been done in other boards; I can only speak to that which I had the superintendence of myself; the orders that we had were peremptory, and those orders were never relaxed till the house was so full that it could hold no more.

16259. Mr. *Miles.*] Then you do not object to the general rule that prohibits out-door relief being given to able-bodied paupers?—Quite the contrary.

16260. But you conceive that when the different boards of guardians endeavour to carry that rule into effect certain discretionary powers in certain cases should be invested with the board?—Yes.

16261. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you think that there would be any danger or inconvenience in leaving to boards of guardians the sole responsibility of affording relief to the poor?—I think not, because I think the board of guardians would very seldom give more than was necessary, they are very much interested the contrary way.

16262. *Chairman.*] When first you were visitor you said that many appeals were made to you from the decisions of the parochial guardians?—Yes.

16263. What classes of persons were those who generally made appeals?—They were principally stocking-makers; those were the persons who received relief principally in that part of the country.

16264. Were you in the habit of giving relief to those persons?—Very rarely; they were in good work, generally speaking; there might be distress in particular parts at different times.

16265. Mr. *Hodges.*] That which you have stated respecting the very few applications which you had from the rural parts of that incorporation, arose from the circumstance that they were in full employment in that part of the country?—I never dreamt of such a thing as relieving persons where they were in full employment.

16266. But supposing that, in other parts of the country, there is great want of work occasionally, and a distressed condition of the labourers, as you happened to know exists with respect to the manufacture of stockings, should you not consider that a relaxation of the workhouse test, under those circumstances, ought to take place to the rural population?—Most undoubtedly, so long as that lasted, if it is no fault of the man himself; as to that horrible system, the allowance system, no law can be too strong, in my opinion, to put an end to it.

16267. Mr. *Fielden.*] You would make a distinction between persons of good character and those who are not of good character?—I would make this distinction; when a person is thrown out of bread from causes over which he has no control, whether he was a good character or a bad one, I should think that that man ought not to be sent to the workhouse.

16268. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Then you must apply some test, if it is only the test of discretion?—If the board of guardians were not satisfied that this man was out of work from no fault of his own, they would order him into the workhouse, that is the discretion I wish them to have, and no more; but there is this to be said, and it is a very mortifying and painful thing, that when individuals attend to boards of guardians, and find that they have no discretion whatever, that they must order every one into the workhouse, let the circumstances attending their cases be what they may, it is very disheartening to them, and they will not attend; it is just so in Basford upon the average for six months, where there are only seven out of 47 that have attended.

16269. Mr. *Fielden.*] Only seven out of 47 that have attended during what time?—During the last six months the average number is seven; I find that I resigned previous to the 13th of September, because there is an answer to it

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from Mr. Smith; I thought I was coming up to be examined some time ago, and I wrote to the clerk to know the attendance of the guardians, because I saw Mr. Gulson's answer, that the attendance of the board of guardians was very good, and I did not think that was the case, and I wrote to the clerk and requested him to send me an official copy from the minutes of the attendance.

16270. That answer have you with you?—Yes; the average was seven.

16271. Have you reason to believe that the attendance has been so deficient in consequence of the guardians not possessing any discretion in relieving persons in the manner in which they thought they ought to relieve them?—I have not the least doubt in the world that that is the cause of it, for I have had frequent conversations with members of the boards, and they have generally expressed great reluctance to attend, for that reason.

16272. Then the management of the distribution of the funds has been confined to about one-seventh of the whole number of guardians appointed under the Act?—It is confined to a very few, that is, the average number, seven a week, for the last six months, and not one single *ex-officio* guardian.

16273. *Chairman.*] That excludes days of election and special meetings, does it not?—Yes.

16274. Does the return from the clerk say what number of *ex-officio* guardians attended?—Not one.

16275. Mr. *Miles.*] From what period to what period did that embrace?—It is, I think, the six months preceding March last.

16276. Mr. *Fielden.*] If so large a majority of the guardians are dissatisfied with the way in which the Poor Law is administered, what are the feelings of those who reside in the neighbourhood with regard to it, in the classes who have to contribute to the rates for the relief of the poor?—I may be supposed to be prejudiced, but, so far as I can judge, I should say that there is a very general feeling of discontent and dissatisfaction at the working of the law in that part of the county, because there was not any great abuse to correct; they were not heavily bowed down by the poor-rates, and therefore I think that the poor people are more discontented with this new law than they would otherwise have been, because they do not see the necessity for it.

16277. Then you are of opinion that there was no necessity for this new law?—I am quite sure that there was not.

16278. And the affairs of that district, relative to the relief of the poor, were managed in a way satisfactory to the rate-payers, and to the poor of that district?—That it was satisfactory to the rate-payers I have not the slightest doubt; but as I was the chairman of the board for five years previously, it is not quite the thing for me to give a distinct answer to that question.

16279. But had it been otherwise, it would have come to your knowledge as chairman of the board?—Yes.

16280. There having been an absence of that complaint, you have reason to believe that the people were satisfied with the administration of the law when you were chairman?—I have not only heard no complaints, but generally expressions of satisfaction; the rates were reduced more than half; not during the time that I was there; the union had been formed 20 years when it was dissolved, and in the course of those 20 years, considering the great increase of population, we diminished the rates more than one-half what they used to be.

16281. *Chairman.*] Have the rates been raised since the introduction of the new law?—I brought this book because I thought it would explain that; here is the expense of the union the first quarter after its formation; it was formed on the 26th June 1836, and here is the expense in the first quarter, which was not very materially different from the old; the circumstances were not altered, the people were in good work, and I take it therefore that it was much the same as it had been before; the total expenses were 1,153*l.* 4*s.*, the in-maintenance was 140*l.* 5*s.*, the out-relief 873*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*, and the establishment charges were 138*l.* 9*s.* This is the first quarter of the union, when the circumstances of the country were pretty much the same.

16282. Do you happen to know what were the expenses under the old system?—No, but I find that there is a great difference of expense between the first quarter in October 1836, and the last quarter terminating in March 1838.

16283. There was a considerable increase in the last quarter?—Yes.

16284. There had been great depression in trade?—Yes.

16285. And great distress?—Yes.

16286. Do

16286. Do not you suppose that part of the distress is to be attributed to the altered state of trade?—I think a good deal is; I brought this paper to show that there had been no diminution, but a considerable increase; I do not attribute that to the formation of the new union, though there are some expenses that are considerably higher than they were under the old.

16287. Have you the means of stating what the expenses under the old system were?—I have not them here.

16288. Mr. *Liddell.*] Will you give the sum total of the last quarter under the incorporation?—The sum total is 2,262*l.* 3*s.* 9½*d.*, then the out-door relief was 1,769*l.*, the in-door 466*l.* 18*s.* 3½*d.*

16289. *Chairman.*] What are the items in which you say there is an increase, as contrasted with the old management?—The proportion of the establishment charges is very considerably higher than they were.

16290. Mr. *Liddell.*] You think that the machinery of the new law is more expensive than the machinery of the old incorporations?—It strikes me so; and another thing is the in-door relief, I see that that is increased three-fold since the first quarter of the union; in the first quarter it was 140*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*, in the last quarter it was 456*l.*; I do not attribute it to the new law, but to causes over which the new law had no operation; if there had not been so many taken into the workhouse, I think it would have cost less, and when once you have degraded a man by putting him into the workhouse, he is very reckless of his character afterwards.

16291. *Chairman.*] Did you find that the case when you administered the old law?—I did.

16292. But, notwithstanding that, your general practice was to order persons into the workhouse?—We did.

16293. Mr. *Miles.*] It is stated that the poor are never compelled to sell their furniture before going into the workhouse; in point of fact, do persons invariably pawn and sell all their furniture previously to going into the house?—With respect to the poor of Nottingham, I cannot speak to that; but with respect to the country, I should say that I never knew any instance of a man who had any furniture going into the workhouse, so long as any thing was left; it is very true that the board of guardians and the overseers do not call upon him to sell his furniture; they do not think of it for a moment.

16294. Mr. *Fielden.*] But the furniture is sold by the man before he makes any application for relief?—In the first place, it goes by pawning, and in the next place, the landlord seizes it, and in the third place, if there are arrears of rates by the people who are not excused, the overseer has no alternative but to seize the furniture; but the great thing is the landlord; I really cannot call to my mind an instance of a man going into the workhouse, having any furniture left.

16295. *Chairman.*] During the time that you were in the habit of ordering people into the workhouse, that was the practice?—Yes, that was the practice, both under the old law and under the new; I have very frequently heard the relieving officer say, "I do not know that that man is so very destitute; he has a pretty good house and goods;" but I never heard that the board of guardians ordered those goods to be sold, and I think the board of guardians could not be such idiots as to do such a thing.

16296. Mr. *Liddell.*] But the man's going into the workhouse is made a condition of relief?—Yes.

16297. And as long as the man has any goods to sell, he will not go into the workhouse?—Yes.

16298. Therefore the practical effect is, to make a man totally destitute before he receives relief?—Yes; it may be different with a gentleman having a large property of his own; a man would not be called upon if he had such a person as his landlord to sell his furniture; but in all those villages in Nottinghamshire the houses are built on speculation; a man who has saved a little money erects houses, and when the tenant falls into difficulties, he will let him go on as long as he has furniture to pay with; and if any person would walk through Nottingham on Wednesdays, he would see two or three sales of furniture going on.

16299. Do you consider that cases may exist in which a man may be saved from hopeless and lasting poverty by timely relief out of the workhouse?—I think those cases exist repeatedly, and that is the point upon which I differ from the Poor Law, because as to going on without a well-regulated workhouse, I think it is impracticable.

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16300. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you established a system of loans?—No, never; it would answer no purpose.

16301. Do you recollect any order issued by the Basford board of guardians with reference to the duty of the overseers of the parishes in cases of emergency?—Yes, I have a copy of it, but it is in the evidence.

16302. What effect had that upon the overseers; had it an effect completely of controlling their disposition to grant relief in cases of emergency?—The order was, that no relief should be given by any overseer in cases of sudden and urgent necessity, except in articles of food; now that order I consider both illegal and perfectly contrary to sound policy, and extremely cruel; I believe it was never carried into effect, because no overseer dared to carry it into effect.

16303. *Chairman.*] Do you not consider that it was contrary to the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners?—Yes; there was a printed circular sent round; it created a most hostile sensation to the law, and the next week it was moved that the order be rescinded, but it was never acted upon.

16304. Mr. *Miles.*] What number of relieving officers were in the Basford Union when first you were formed into a union?—The relieving officers were very few; there were only three appointed; I objected to it at the time; Mr. Gulson was of opinion that it was sufficient, and only three were appointed.

16305. What number of inhabitants were there in the union?—Fifty-four thousand; fifty-one thousand in this union.

16306. Do you recollect the number of cases upon the books?—The relieving officer told me the last time I spoke to him, that in the month of March he had 1,243 cases upon his books in that district.

16307. Is that the district of one relieving officer?—It is; and it is a district containing 15 parishes, and the average number in those parishes is 1,478.

16308. Does it spread over a large district of country?—With the auditor I measured it, as well as we could, upon the map, and the distance that this relieving officer would have had to go from the place where he lived, if it had been possible for him to have done it all in one day, it would have been 37 miles to go, from one village to another, in one day.

16309. Have additional relieving officers been appointed?—No; there was a proposal, which Mr. Gulson alludes to, but that has been negatived by the board; but the board of guardians have now come to a different resolution; there was an advertisement in a Nottingham paper the week before last for a fourth in addition.

16310. Then, up to the present time, the whole of the distribution of relief in that union has been conducted by three relieving officers?—Yes.

16311. Are you aware of any cases of hardship having occurred owing to the deficiency of relieving officers?—I think it impossible but that instances of hardship must have occurred; I do not know of instances, but I defy any relieving officer to go through that district and inquire, in the way that the Poor Law Amendment Act requires him to inquire, so as to give a satisfactory account to the board of guardians of each case.

16312. How many medical officers were there appointed?—There are now six, but the original proposal, which Mr. Gulson advertised, was three for that immense district.

16313. There were six on the formation of the union?—There were only three advertised for; I was present, and knowing something of the subject, I told Mr. Gulson that I was satisfied it could not answer, but he said he thought it could, and I told him moreover, that the tenders would very considerably exceed the cost of medical relief before the formation of the union; but he said, "The Commissioners will not allow any further expense;" I said, "It will be so, depend upon it;" when I opened the tenders they did considerably exceed what had been previously expended upon that part, and then I wanted to reduce the size of the districts still more, but I could not get consent to do it for more than six, and I divided the union into six, and here are the divisions.

16314. You have been in the medical profession yourself?—Yes.

16315. For many years?—A great many years; I have never practised in the profession since I have resided in this neighbourhood, but I was a medical officer in the army for a great many years.

16316. Did you hear the examination of Sir Astley Cooper?—I did.

16317. Do

16317. Do you agree in the results which he drew, and do you agree in his statement relative to the distance that the medical officers should reside from the population?—I would make it even less than that, if it could be done; I would always endeavour to get the medical assistance as near the pauper as I could, but different parts of the country are very differently situated with respect to that; now in our neighbourhood, in all large villages there are one or two well-educated men, and I think, if it had been left to me, I should have made an agreement with each of the medical men in those parishes to have taken the charge of the poor.

16318. *Chairman.*] What were the arrangements in the Gilbert incorporations?—The parishes found their own medical officers, and I am not quite sure that that will not be the best way now.

16319. Mr. *Miles.*] Would you have any objection to go back to the old system of the appointment of assistant-overseers for one or two parishes?—I think it would be the wisest thing that could possibly be done; I am sure the present overseers are perfectly inefficient, and often very ignorant men, and all of them very unwilling officers; it is a very onerous burden that is imposed upon them; great responsibility is attached to it; they live in the hopes of getting rid of it as soon as they can; I think that every parish ought to have a paid officer.

16320. Would you place the relief of the poor in the hands of the assistant-overseer, subject to the control of the board of guardians?—I would.

16321. If relieving officers are still continued, do you not think it necessary that they should have some further powers relative to removals, and so on, given to them?—I see some questions upon that which I do not quite understand.

16322. In case of the removal from the workhouse of a lunatic pauper, in case of a person running away and leaving his family chargeable, or in case of any removal from one place to another, is it not necessary, as the law now stands, that the information should be given by the overseer?—Most undoubtedly; and I think he is the person to give it.

16323. The magistrates at present require the proof, upon oath, of the chargeability, to be given by the overseer; do not you think that it would be more convenient to obtain that proof from the relieving officer who pays the paupers, rather than from the overseer, who, except in cases of emergency, would not pay them?—I do not see how it would be practicable; when the relieving officers have such large districts, the men's time is taken up every day; there are three petty sessions in our district, one in Derbyshire, one at Mansfield, and one at Nottingham.

16324. It is not proposed to take away the power from the overseer?—I see no objection to it, but I see no advantage in it; it would be taking the relieving officer away from duties which requires his time.

16325. Have you considered the powers of auditors of unions, and have you found any inconvenience from their disallowing some of the items in the overseer's accounts?—Yes, there is great inconvenience in it; I have seen rules from the Commissioners (and here, I should observe, that we know nothing about any orders of the Commissioners, unless they have a seal to them, and are sanctioned by the Secretary of State); amongst other things, I saw directions of the Commissioners to discontinue the allowances to assistant-overseers; they said it was illegal, and must be paid no longer; and here are instructions to their auditors, in which they say that that is an illegal payment, and that they must not allow it, and, in consequence of that, the auditor has refused to do it; then a man is appointed under the 59th of George III.; the parish has a right, if they think fit, to choose a fit and proper person to be an assistant-overseer, who is to have all the power of an overseer; they have the power to fix his salary and to take his name to the magistrates; the magistrates confirm the order, and that is all they have to do with it; then this assistant-overseer comes at the end of the year, and says, "Here is the Act that appoints me assistant-overseer;" and then comes the auditor and says, "Here is a direction from the Poor Law Commissioners which forbids my allowing your salary in the accounts." I think it would be very desirable if every parish, or every two or three parishes, were to have assistant-overseers.

16326. From the intimate knowledge which you have of the Poor Laws, and from a careful perusal of the Poor Law Amendment Act, will you favour the Committee with any recommendations as to any amendment which you think should take place in the Poor Law Act?—The first thing that I should say ought

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to be amended, is the granting a discretionary power to the guardians; and I think without that it will be very difficult in the sort of district in which I live, and where there has been none of that pressure from the Poor Law which has existed in some parts, to find any respectable people that will attend the board of guardians; they are very unwilling to do it; in the parish of St. Nicholas of Nottingham they are entitled to six guardians, and they have been able to find only four gentlemen who will serve; and in other parts of the country we have the greatest difficulty in prevailing upon people to act as guardians; they very much dislike it, and I think that if they had discretion it might be safely trusted to boards of guardians in our part of the country, and I do not know that it might not be safely trusted to boards of guardians any where; I do not go to agricultural parts, where they have had the allowance system; I say that there is no law too stringent for that.

16327. Mr. *Walker*.] How could you draw the line?—I would not draw it; but if they had been accustomed to give people parish relief in aid of wages, there is no law too strong to prevent it.

16328. Mr. *Liddell*.] What alteration would you suggest regarding the bastardy clauses?—I should let it pass as it did through the House of Commons; I see the greatest evil arising from it; you impose what you conceive a restraint upon the female; but you have counterbalanced all that by taking off all restraint from the male; it is cruel, and perfectly unjust; and as to the immorality of it, I think it cannot be questioned.

16329. *Chairman*.] What would you propose as the law?—I am quite of opinion that the bastardy clauses have, with that exception, been very wisely altered; I think that decision, which said that a mother applying for relief for her bastard child, was not relief to herself, was an unfortunate decision; but it is the law, and I cannot help it; therefore, I say, that whenever a woman called upon the parish officer for relief, he should say, "You shall go into the workhouse;" and so long as she remained in the workhouse, I would call upon the father of that child to maintain her during the time she was in the workhouse; but the moment that she and he could settle for her to come out, I would say, "Let all liabilities cease on both sides;" and that I consider to be the true spirit of the Act of Elizabeth; I totally disagree with the Commissioners in their interpretation of the law; the woman is bound to nurse the child, or pay whatever the order is a week; so long as she complies with that condition, I contend that she is amenable to no other authority.

16330. In the Gilbert Act, is there not a clause which obliges the guardian of the parish to provide work for a man near his own residence?—Yes.

16331. Have you been able to carry that clause into execution?—I have never attempted it.

16332. Why?—Because there is a decision of the Court of King's Bench, the King *v.* Lorton, which upsets that.

16333. Supposing that clause in the Act to be operative, do you think it desirable?—Very undesirable.

16334. Do you think it would be practicable?—No, and very unwise; that would be getting into the system that they had in the southern part of England.

16335. That is, parties would be applying, under the notion that the parish were obliged to provide work, and that work would be of a nominal description?—Yes.

16336. Have you any other recommendations?—With respect to medical relief, the great evil is the size of the districts; but I am sure the Committee will all agree with me upon this, that there is no principle upon earth so dangerous as to put a man's interest very much against his duty; every man who knows any thing of medical practice, must know that it is utterly impossible for a man to undertake the duties which are imposed upon him by his contract, without considerable loss in every case; I do not know any case in which there must not be loss, if he does it properly; then there is another thing which must be taken into account, that the parties who make the contract are no judges whether it is performed or not; and there is a suggestion of Dr. Kay's, which I heard, which was, that it would be better if the paupers of a certain district, usually upon the list, were able to apply without orders; I approve of that suggestion; I see there is a great disposition to be very kind in medical men, though they are losers by it; and if the paupers are any where near, they never wait

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wait for an order, I have divided the union into six districts there, but it would have been better if it had been confined to the means of getting assistance.

16337. Have you any other observation to make?—I felt this answer of Mr. Gulson's to be a very great reflection upon me, and very unjust, and therefore I took means to ascertain, from those who were competent to judge, what they thought of it, and how far it was true; in the first place I wrote to Colonel Coape, who was the deputy chairman; I sent him this question, and asked him how far it was true, and this is his reply.

16338. Mr. *Miles.*] In consequence of perusing the evidence of Mr. Gulson, and his answer to question 1644, did you apply to Colonel Coape and the board of guardians, as to the correctness of that statement?—Yes.

16339. Did Colonel Coape in any way contradict the statement made by Mr. Gulson?—*In toto.*

16340. Had you likewise a communication from the board of guardians upon this subject?—Yes, I will read it; when I got this communication, I sent it down to Mr. Smith, the chairman of the board, and begged that he would lay it before the guardians; and in the first place I begged that he would answer those questions himself: these are, "Questions to Henry Smith, Esq., chairman of the board of guardians of the Basford Union: Be so good as to read Mr. Gulson's answer to question 1644. 'Did you ever hear any complaint made by the board of guardians of the new union 'of the exclusive manner in which the business had been conducted by the visitor; open complaints were made to him, and unpleasant observations took place between them in consequence, and he withdrew;'—is that true?" The answer is, "I never heard any complaints of Mr. Nixon having acted in an exclusive manner. Are you or have you ever been a county magistrate? I am not, nor ever was. Did any magistrate attend as *ex-officio* guardian after the first day of the meeting of the guardians, with the exception of Mr. Rolleston once, to make a complaint? Colonel Rolleston has, I think, attended twice; he asked for some information of the board; I do not recollect his making any complaint. If they did not, can the reasons assigned by Mr. Gulson for their retirement be true? I do not know why the magistrates do not attend the board, excepting that I conclude they are not friendly to the new Poor Law Act. Did you ever hear any disagreement between Mr. Nixon and the board of guardians, except with respect to their having the power of ordering the mothers of children born before the passing of the Act to come into the house, and their power of refusing relief to paupers, from considering that they had relations capable of maintaining them; were those disagreements conducted with any other unpleasant feeling or warmth on either side than is usual on similar occasions? The only points of disagreement between Mr. Nixon and the board have been those stated by him, nor has the discussion been more unpleasant than is usual when parties take a different view of a question." Then these are questions to Mr. Farrand, deputy-chairman, and formerly deputy-visitor under the old incorporation. These are the instructions which he has received on his own account, and that of the board, to the questions: "Be so good as to read Mr. Gulson's answer to question 1644—Is it true that any 'visitor of the old corporation managed the corporation entirely by himself, or at least practically so,' more especially with respect to Mr. Nixon? No. Was Mr. Nixon either visitor or guardian under the old corporation? No. Was he not, and is he not still, a county magistrate? Yes. Was not Mr. Nixon, for five successive years or more, unanimously elected visitor? Yes. During the whole of that time did you ever hear an unpleasant word between him or any one of the guardians? Never. Did you ever know on any occasion Mr. Nixon assume any exclusive right of managing the corporation solely on his own authority? Never. Was he at all in the habit, at any time, of making any proposition for any change or alteration in the management, or ever doing any act contrary to the wishes of the guardians? Never. Did you ever hear of any disagreement between Mr. Nixon and the new board, with the exception of a different interpretation of the new Act with respect to the mothers of bastard children, and the power of the guardians to refuse relief, where they believed the relations of paupers were of ability to maintain them; or were those differences of opinion carried on on either side with any other unpleasant feeling or warmth than is usual on similar occasions; and were you not one of Mr. Nixon's principal opponents on that occasion? I was; I never heard any disagreement. Did the magistrates, as *ex-officio*

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guardians, ever attend the board after the first day; if not, can the reason assigned by Mr. Gulson, as to their retirement, be true? Never attended." Then I asked Mr. Ashton, the clerk of the board of guardians, "How many paupers were in the house previous to Mr. Gulson's commencing his operations, the 13th of March 1836? Seventy. How many on the 25th of June 1836? Fifty, the day the union ceased." All I have to say is, that I consider this statement of Mr. Gulson most offensive, and I thought that I had good reason to be offended with it, and that was my motive for coming here; I will show how little disposed I was to thwart the views of the Poor Law Commissioners; the moment I saw these regulations among their regulations I proposed that they should be adopted in the Gilbert incorporation: "First, That in all contracts for medical relief, the paupers belonging to any of the parishes in this union shall be included, and no additional charge shall be made for attendance on them; this regulation to extend to any other parish not in the union which shall adopt the same plan: Second, That no relief shall be given to any able-bodied pauper between the age of 16 and 60, not resident in the parish, and that the cases of those now on the overseer's list be strictly inquired into: Third, That not less than one-half of all out-door relief be given in bread, or some other necessaries: Fourth, That all work performed for the parish by paupers be done by contract where practicable; and that no relief be given beyond what is earned:" Those resolutions I proposed, and they were carried; I read them to show that I had no disposition to counteract the Poor Law; I wish to make a remark here with relation to a clause in the Act which does not seem to have any object in it, yet it is attended with great inconvenience,—clause 68, That if a man, however large his property may be quits a parish and goes 10 miles off, he loses his settlement, and then must find his settlement somewhere else; whereas if he had rented a house for one year, he would have maintained his settlement as long as he lived, and he would have no difficulty about it; I may mention this fact; a case occurred the other day which brought this to my notice; I had forgotten this clause; I made an order that could not be supported; that was a man of the name of Henson, who had property, 54*l.* a year, at Horson, in Nottinghamshire, where he and his wife had lived upwards of 40 years; this man and his wife disagreed, and he either turned her out of doors, or she separated from him, from what cause I do not know; they were not living together; she was in very bad health, and the parish officer of Basford applied to me to come to examine as to her settlement; I did go and examine her, and, according to her statement, she had lived 44 years in Horson, and had a property there, and still retained it, of 54*l.* a year; I adjudged that she belonged to Horson; when I reported it to the magistrates at petty sessions the clerk said, "You are perhaps not aware of this clause, for this man does not belong to Horson, and though he has property in Horson, we must endeavour to find where his settlement is elsewhere;" I do not see why it should be so; I do not see the object of this clause.

[*The following Papers were delivered in.*]

Gentlemen, Sherwood Lodge, August 22, 1836.

FINDING that an overwhelming majority of guardians appears determined to adopt a system in regard to the mothers of bastards, born before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and in which they are sanctioned by the Commissioners, but which I nevertheless conceive to be illegal, and, as such, oppressive towards an unfortunate class of females not possessing the means for applying for legal address, and considering that any proposition I might think it my duty hereafter to make on their behalf would be useless, and only tend (as has already been too much the case) to produce long discussion and desultory conversation, and thereby occupy the time of the board, which might be much more usefully employed; I have come to the resolution of retiring from the board for the present, and resigning the office of vice-president, to which the guardians had done me the honour to appoint me, reserving to myself my right of attending as an *ex-officio* guardian whenever I think proper.

I remain, &c.

To the Guardians of the Board of the Basford Union. (signed) *Henry Coape.*

(Copy.) *William Ashton*, Clerk. Minute book, fo. 59.

Mr. *Nixon's* Letter, assigning his reasons for resigning.

Sir,

I REQUEST you will inform the board of guardians, at their next meeting, that, after very mature deliberation, I feel compelled to adhere to my resolution communicated to you at the last meeting, of resigning the office of chairman to the board. It has always been my

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most anxious wish to do fair and impartial justice betwixt the rate-payer and the pauper; and although I admit there may and will arise, in so numerous a board, differences of opinion on this subject, without the slightest ground for attributing improper motives, in a desire to oppress the poor, to any party, and although I have certainly thought that on several occasions there has been a disposition shown by several guardians to press with rather too much severity upon the aged and infirm paupers, I gave those guardians credit for acting conscientiously; but when, as it occurred last Tuesday, relief was refused to a person of the name of Lees, of Gedling, born an idiot, dumb, and one of the most miserable human beings in appearance I ever beheld, and notwithstanding I read to them the 56th clause of the new Act, which limits the liability of the father to maintain his child to its attaining 16 years of age, and used every argument I was master of to induce them to rescind their resolution, it was all in vain; and I had the mortification of witnessing the board over which I presided acting in direct violation of that law which they are appointed to carry into execution, and, by so doing, in my opinion, committing a grievious act of oppression upon one of the most helpless of human beings. I do not inquire into the ability of the father (a labourer advanced, in years and very lame) to maintain this unhappy pauper, because that belongs to another tribunal, under the Act of the 43d Elizabeth, with which the guardians have nothing whatever to do. Under these circumstances, I feel that I should be compromising my own character, if I should any longer continue to preside over the board of guardians of the Basford Union. With the great and leading principle of the new Law, that of withholding relief to the idle and profligate able-bodied pauper out of the workhouse, I entirely concur, and would press upun such characters with all the severity the law authorizes; but towards the aged, blind or impotent, I would act with all the compassion which justice to the rate-payers would sanction.

I am, &c.

Thos Nixon.

MEDICAL DISTRICTS.

No. 1.	Population.
Eastwood	1,395
Greadey	4,853
Annesley and Felly	335
Kirkley	2,032
Selstone	1,580
Cadnor and Luscoe	1,439
Cadnor Park	637
£.75	12,271

No. 2.	
Heanor	2,672
Shepley	632
Ilkestone	4,446
Cassall	341
Trawell	402
£.42.	8,493

No. 3.	
Hucknall	2,200
Bulwell	2,611
Nuthall	509
Bilborough	330
Stutley	426
£.30	6,076

No. 4.	
Basford	6,325
Baston	2,530
Wollaton	537
£.43.	9,392

No. 5.	Population.
Newstead	159
Lynley	352
Papplewick	359
Culverton	1,196
Woodborough	774
Lambley	824
Arnold	4,054
£.47.	7,718

No. 6.	
Burton	534
Gedling	458
Stoke	181
Carlton	1,704
Calwick	145
Bridgford	281
Gamston	107
£.33.	3,410

No. 7.	
Wilford	602
Ruddington	1,428
Bradmore	369
Bunny	371
Gotham	748
Thrumpton	132
Clifton	405
£.42.	4,055
Baston	379
	4,434

No. 1.	£.75		12,271
„ 2.	42		8,493
„ 3.	30		6,076
„ 4.	43		9,392
„ 5.	47		7,718
„ 6.	33		3,410
„ 7.	42		4,434
	£.312		51,794

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Edward Gulson, Esquire, further Examined.

16341. *Chairman.*] YOU have heard Mr. Nixon's statement, are there any points upon which you would wish to give explanation?—Yes; I should wish to explain shortly; I shall not go to any length; I will go, in the first place, to the point in which it is stated that the overseers were threatened with fine; the plain fact is, that there was an incorporation at Basford, in which, long after the year 1816, parishes tacitly joined them; they paid their money for their share of the property; they paid a premium beyond the share of the property, and no deed was ever entered into; no deed was ever signed; nothing, in fact, was done to bind them and to render them legally an incorporation; consequently the Commissioners were obliged to consider those parishes as no part of the incorporation; they either were or were not a part of the Gilbert incorporation; if they were, the deeds would show, and they must be bound by the Gilbert Act, under which they acted, but in default of those deeds they were not bound by the Gilbert Act, and consequently were open to the general Poor Law Amendment Act, and I told the guardians plainly (and I should have been wanting in my duty if I had neglected to tell them) that they legally formed no part of the incorporation, that my instructions were to deal with them as no part of the incorporation, to take them away therefrom; and of course I should have been wanting in my duty if I had not also told the board of guardians that they would have been obliged, when taken away, to repay to those 16 parishes their share of the property which they had contributed; this would have amounted to a very considerable sum, and there could be no doubt that would have taken place; I have no doubt at all that that operated to a certain extent in the dissolution of the incorporation; nevertheless, there were other circumstances which influenced them; I showed, as I was instructed to show, and as every one who reads the Gilbert Act will see, that all the good that was done by the Gilbert incorporation, was effected in evasion of the law, and that the fact was, that under the new law (I may make use of this expression) that the lawless law of the visitor and guardians was superseded by the lawful law of the Commissioners; and that is the change which has been been made.

16342. In what respect do you consider it an evasion of the law?—In receiving the able-bodied into the workhouse, which is strictly forbidden by the Gilbert Act.

16343. You do not consider that to be affected by the decision in the case of the King *v.* Lorton?—Not at all; and the Commissioners have had similar opinions upon it; consequently, it was an evasion of the law, which I told the guardians could not be allowed, and that if they remained under the Gilbert Act, the Gilbert Act would be strictly enforced.

16344. You told the guardians that there was nothing to prevent these parishes being taken and placed in any union that the commissioners might think desirable?—Yes.

16345. And in the event of its being so done, that it would have been necessary to pay those parishes a certain amount of the sum that had been advanced by them?—Yes; and I also told the board of guardians that the Gilbert Act imposed a fine for non-attendance of the guardians; and that if they continued under the Gilbert Act, of course that the Commissioners would see that the Act was carried out in that respect as well as in any others, and that we should be wanting in our duty if we did not do so.

16346. Are there any other observations which you wish to make?—It is stated that I gave a very loose answer in stating 120 as the number that were in the workhouse; and I beg to refer the Committee to questions 1608 and 1609; I am there asked how many paupers are in the workhouse now; and I gave the number; I am also asked how many were in at the formation of the union; now the parishes at the formation of the union are very different from the parishes of the incorporation then; and I gave the answer for the same parishes which are now comprised in the union as the other question related to; for instance (it was done by way of comparison) how many are there now, and how many were there then; I gave the number now, and I gave the number for the same parishes as are now comprised in the Basford Union; and there were other workhouses besides Basford to which they sent their people.

16347. Do you refer to the number belonging to all the parishes in Basford Union?

Union?—Yes; and I have, since I came into this room, referred to the tabular document from which the return is made out, given to me in writing under the hand of the overseers of the parishes; and to show how nearly I am right, there is the number for each parish, and they come to 118.

16348. Have you any other observations which you wish to make?—As regards the attendance upon the board of guardians, I am sorry that any reflection is made upon the board for want of attendance, and I do not think that the return which was called for from the clerk by Mr. Nixon was at all fair; he was called upon to state the number of guardians attending within the last six months, excepting at certain times, special meetings and days of election; now I have been at the Basford board of guardians very often, and I have never seen any want of attendance; on the contrary, I have seen very good attendance at the Basford board of guardians; and I should say, if the attendance had not been so numerous, no fault would have been to be found with the board of guardians; and, so far from it having merged into any seven, if you look into the minute-book you will find that the seven are by no means the same men; that they are distributed; some come one day, and some another day; I see from 20 to 30 guardians when I go.

16349. If the special meetings and days of election had been included in that return, do you believe that that average would have been very different?—I believe that it would have been three times as many; Mr. Nixon finds fault with my having stated that he was chosen chairman of the board of guardians by my advice; all that I have to say upon that head is, that I was at considerable trouble in speaking to the guardians, not to ask them to propose any one else; and that I did so advise the guardians, and made it my business so to do for several days previous to the day on which he was chosen.

16350. It does not follow, though you gave that advice, thinking that on the whole it was desirable that Mr. Nixon should be chosen, that without that advice having been given they would not have elected Mr. Nixon?—Not at all.

16351. Did you mean to draw that inference?—Not at all; I thought that Mr. Nixon had conducted the incorporation exceedingly well, as far as the Act would allow, and I therefore advised the board of guardians to elect him.

16352. You did not mean your answer to lead to any inference, that, except for that advice, the guardians might have been indisposed to elect him?—Very far from it, and I wish to make an observation regarding my statement, that the chairman is a magistrate; if you will turn to the date at which I was examined, and also to the date of the new commission for Nottinghamshire, you will find that the new commission for Nottinghamshire came out, or was made known within a few days, a week at any rate, of my being examined here.

16353. Before or after you were examined?—Before; and the name of Mr. Smith, the chairman, is one of the new names that are put into the new commission; it was a matter of general knowledge that Mr. Smith's name was put into the new commission, and neither the new magistrates nor the old had taken the oaths at that time, and therefore I had no reason for supposing that Mr. Smith would not take the oaths; he was included in the commission, and in my evidence I make use of the word "now," as showing that he was now made a magistrate, which he was not before, meaning that he was then put into the commission. Then as regards the bastardy cases, the practice at Basford as in every other union, as I stated in my evidence, is decidedly to refuse out-door relief to all bastards, and to take them into the workhouse when they cannot maintain themselves, or their mothers maintain them: but that with all bastards born previous to the passing of the Act, we do not oblige the mothers to come in; with bastards born since the Act we do; and I wish to say, that the guardians did complain to me, and complained very much that Mr. Nixon, as chairman of that board, threatened that if the overseers did not fulfil the orders of the magistrates upon the putative father, and pay it over to the mother, the magistrates would make orders and indict them; and I can produce the overseer of a parish with whom that passed, and that led to unpleasant observations and unpleasant feelings, and a portion of the board loudly complained to me, and it was in consequence of those loud complaints being made to me, that I wrote that letter to the Commissioners which was read at the board; it was solely in consequence of the board of guardians complaining of his bearing to them as a magistrate.

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16354. Was there, with respect to relief to bastards born previously to the Act, a good deal of dispute between the magistrates and the board of guardians, or was it a dispute between the members of the board?—I think at Basford it was entirely a dispute between the magistrates and the board of guardians.

16355. Did the majority of the board entertain a different opinion from the magistrates?—Yes, most decidedly.

16356. The opinion of the board of guardians being that relief to bastards born, whether before or since the Act, should be in the workhouse?—Yes.

16357. The magistrates entertaining a different opinion?—Yes.

16358. What is your opinion upon that subject?—My opinion is very decided on the point, that we have adopted no course which has been practically more beneficial to all parties than that relative to the bastards.

16359. How has it operated?—I think it has operated decidedly to the lessening of bastardy.

16360. Mr. *Miles.*] Has the course which has been adopted been legal?—I contend that it has, and I am borne out in my opinion by the opinions of the Commissioners, which you have before you to-day, as regards the law; the magistrates at Nottingham and the Commissioners were at issue upon the subject, and the Commissioners have entered very fully indeed into what they consider to be the law upon the subject; then I wish also to make a remark upon the subject of the inadequacy of any relief which might be ordered by the magistrates under the 27th clause of the Act of Parliament; speaking of my own district, and I may say in fact as regards the counties altogether, we have no instances within our knowledge of inadequate relief having been afforded by a board of guardians in consequence of an order of a magistrate; then if no inadequate relief has been known, where is the use or where is the need for an alteration of the law; if the law was altered, and if power was given to the magistrates, would not abuses exist? It would multiply abuses.

16361. *Chairman.*] Do not you think that this would be likely to happen, that if the magistrates were empowered to award the amount of relief as well as to direct that out-door relief should be given in a certain class of cases, the circumstances of those persons would come to be adjudicated, not by the board of guardians, but by the magistrates?—Most decidedly.

16362. Do not you think that the magistrates would assume to themselves the office of determining what should be the amount of relief given?—Some benches of magistrates would.

16363. Would not that abrogate the main intention of the law, which was to transfer the decision of the question as to the amount of relief from the magistrates to the board of guardians?—I am confident of it.

16364. Do not you think that the whole of those questions of the amount of relief are much better vested in the board of guardians than in the magistrates?—Infinitely so.

16365. Do not you think that it would very soon sink into this sort of abuse, that whereas an interpretation has been put upon the Act of Elizabeth with regard to employment, that those are impotent poor who cannot get employment, that the magistrates might very soon take upon themselves to determine that parties were unable to work who could not get employment, and that in the end, the administration of relief would get into the hands of the magistrates, instead of the board of guardians?—Yes.

16366–7. Do not you think that would be practically a repeal of the Poor Law Amendment Act?—Entirely so; it would lead to simulation by a large number of persons as to their age, to begin with; that would be one collusion that would be practised in the absence of registration.

16368. Mr. *Miles.*] Supposing the magistrates had the power of ordering relief, and that relief was only to the amount given to the out-door poor by the board of guardians, do not you think that they would exercise their discretion well, if they were, before making any final order for relief, to hear such evidence as the board of guardians had to give them as to the reason for which they might differ from the opinion of the magistrates?—I think that all the reasons which induced the legislature to take the power out of the hands of the magistrates as it existed under the old law should induce you now to keep it with the board of guardians rather than replace it with the magistrates again; I think the boards

are

are better judges than the bench of magistrates would be, in nineteen cases out of twenty.

16369. Then do you look at that clause of the Act as totally nugatory?—No, I do not, for this reason; I think in such a case, if a person was oppressed by the board of guardians, he has an appeal to the magistrates, but only in cases of oppression.

16370. They have an appeal to the magistrates, but it is only in case of their being ill used, as they suppose, by the board of guardians; but if the magistrates make an order and the board of guardians state the amount, and they do not give a sufficiency of amount, have they not, practically, the appeal, instead of the magistrates?—I contend that the board of guardians ought to have the appeal, and that the discretion ought to be with them, and that as far as experience has hitherto proved, they have exercised that discretion most soundly.

16371. *Chairman.*] With regard to question 1644, and the explanation which you have given of the withdrawing of the *ex-officio* magistrates, have you any further observation to make?—I was not present when the chairman and vice-chairman did resign; that was the explanation which the guardians gave me, as I could prove, if it is necessary; though it is very much better not to revive those things.

16372. Do you know any thing of the case of Lees?—No.

16373. Do you know any thing of the comparative expense of the Gilbert Union and the new union?—Yes, I can tell you what the expense was previous to the formation of the union; the expenses of those parishes which are now comprised in the union, previous to the formation of the union, were 12,955*l.* per annum.

16374. Was that the average of three years?—Yes; some degree of imputation was thrown out regarding my answer relative to the Bingham parishes. Now, my answer did not refer to those parishes which were in the Basford incorporation, but those parishes which were under Mr. Lowe's influence, and not in the Basford incorporation.

16375. That was your intention in giving the answer?—Yes.

16376. Have you any other observation to make?—I have; at the time that this resolution was passed in January or February an assistant, at one guinea per week, was given to two of the relieving officers in Basford Union, in consequence of the amount of work having increased to such a great extent from the badness of trade; these officers were continued (I speak now from recollection) I believe two months; and last Tuesday the permanent appointment of a fourth officer was made; and I am still of opinion that if pauperism had remained in the same state as it was when the Basford incorporation was formed, trade good instead of bad, we should not have needed the addition of another relieving officer.

16377. Do you attribute that addition of a relieving officer to the great depression of trade and the number of persons who have been thrown out of work in consequence?—Yes.

16378. When it has been stated that the relieving officer if he visited his whole district would have to travel 37 miles, is it ever contemplated that he should go over it in one day?—No, certainly not.

16379. Can you state the expenses of the new union?—The expenses for the quarter ending the 29th of September 1836, which is the first quarter after its formation, are signed by the clerk and auditors as 1,153*l.* 4*s.*; for the next quarter it is 1,639*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*; the next is 1,805*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* There is a progressive increase from the badness of trade; in June, 2,132*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*; the trade went on getting worse and worse. When I was here last time Lord John Russell asked me whether I thought the out-door labour at Nottingham would lessen altogether, or lessen materially beyond what it then was, or whether I thought that it would keep up always a certain amount of pauperism of that description; I stated, that I thought it would lessen materially beyond what it was then. In proof that I was right in my impression, I may state, that the out-door labour is now entirely done away in Nottingham, and instead of having 1,000 people in the workhouse, we have now only 420.

16380. The average expenses before the formation of the union were 12,955*l.*, and the expenses since have been 6,730*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*?—Yes, but that statement alone is not just towards Mr. Nixon's incorporation, for this reason, that there

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are many parishes that were not comprised in Basford incorporation during the period for which we are taking the account.

16381. Therefore you would not think that any inference could be established?—No; I am inclined to think that as regards the expenditure in Basford incorporation it is lessened, but not to any thing like the extent that the bringing in the other parishes would show to the whole; I do not mean to say that it has lessened during the bad trade.

16382. The time that has elapsed since the formation of the union has been one of severe commercial pressure?—Yes.

16383. With regard to the sale of furniture, you have heard what Mr. Nixon has stated, that people are invariably in the habit of selling their furniture before they go into the workhouse?—Of course we have nothing to do with the people before they apply for relief; that is their private affair; what I state is, that in no case do we make it a condition that they should sell their furniture; and, since I was here last, a somewhat curious coincidence has taken place upon this point, in connexion with my evidence; the House of Lords have examined a Mr. Bell, the clerk of the Bourne Union, in Lincolnshire, which is in my district, and he states, in his evidence, upon oath before the House of Lords, that, upon a certain day this last winter, previous to my examination here, (I attended the Bourne Board upon that day) 14 or 16, I forget which, able-bodied men, applied for relief; (they were under the prohibitory rule at Bourne;) they were told that no relief could be given to them; the men expostulated, and Mr. Bell states, in his evidence, that I took up the conversation with those men, and explained to them the law, the principle upon which it was founded, and that I requested them to come into the workhouse temporarily, explaining to them, (at that time previous to my being examined here,) that their furniture would be untouched, that they would find their homes in the same state as they had left them; that if they would come into the workhouse, while the frost lasted, when that ceased, they might walk to their homes, and find all as it was previously.

16384. And you explained that to the paupers at the Bourne Union?—Yes; so Mr. Bell has stated in evidence on oath.

16385. You told them, that so far from its being the intention of the board of guardians or the Commissioners, that they should be compelled to sell their furniture, they would find it when they returned from the workhouse?—Yes; and so Mr. Bell states in his evidence.

16386. With regard to the number that have been relieved in the workhouse of Nottingham, do you happen to know whether there has been any difficulty with regard to those persons, a good number of whom you have described as having left the workhouse, in recovering possession of their furniture?—In consequence of seeing an observation upon my evidence in the Leicester petition, I went to Nottingham, and I found from Mr. Barnett, that above 2,000 people had gone through and out of the Nottingham workhouse in the last 12 months, and that a very large proportion of them, say at any rate, 1,200, are at the present time re-established in Nottingham.

16387. In possession of homes, and all that is necessary for existence there?—Yes.

16388. May I ask you whether, in any of the observations which you made in reference to the Basford Union, you intended to reflect, in any manner, upon any conduct, or any part of the character of Mr. Nixon?—Quite the contrary; and it is a matter of very great regret that I should have used any words that could be so construed, a matter of great regret to me personally towards Mr. Nixon; nothing was further from my intention, and it has given me very great pain.

16389. Neither did you mean to dispute that Mr. Nixon, in his capacity of visitor of the Basford Union, had conducted matters with great efficiency?—I never meant to dispute that; on the contrary, I have always stated that publicly, over and over again.

16390. Your reasons for dissolving the Gilbert incorporation, and for placing those parishes under the new Poor Law had not reference to any thing that had taken place in that incorporation, but you did so from general principles, thinking that matters would be better conducted under the new Poor Law?—Most decidedly; so far from taking that step because of any thing that took place in the Basford incorporation, I think that the Basford incorporation was

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as well conducted as it was possible for it to be, imperfectly as that Act is drawn.

16391. You think that the Act possesses a machinery very much inferior to the machinery under the new Act?—Yes.

16392. Do you know whether any communications have taken place between any board of guardians in your district and the Commissioners, with respect to subscriptions to county hospitals?—Yes, with Mr. Dodson, of the Spilsby Union; Mr. Dodson, in consequence of having seen my evidence, in which it was stated that no objection was made to subscriptions to county hospitals, addressed a letter to the Commissioners, in which he called their attention to the fact, and the Commissioners have written to state that subscriptions would be allowed, and I am not aware that they put any limit upon them as to time; but this I can say most decidedly, that, as far as my knowledge goes, no impediment has been placed in my district to subscriptions to county hospitals, and that I am not aware of the Commissioners having put any limit as regards time; and if they have, it is in order that they may consider the subject when the time comes.

16393. Do you think it desirable that the board of guardians should subscribe to county hospitals?—Yes.

16394. In the event of the board of guardians subscribing to county hospitals, how would you distribute that charge?—According to the number of cases; supposing the board subscribed twenty guineas and there were twenty cases, that would be a guinea a case, and I would charge a guinea a case to those who availed themselves of it.

16395. Have you any knowledge of what was the practice with regard to the sale of furniture under the old law?—Yes, I have some considerable knowledge upon that; and it so happens that, since I was asked the question by the Committee before, I have had in my hands some of the old parish books, and I have brought up to town with me inventories of poor persons' goods that have been taken by the old parish officers upon affording them relief; those inventories I have in my possession at this time.

16396. Therefore with respect to sales of furniture, does it not appear that, whereas under the old law overseers were in the habit of making a sale of the furniture the condition of relief, under the new law no such condition is insisted upon, though in particular cases persons may have sold their furniture when they were in distress?—Yes.

16397. And consequently was not the old law, if put into practice, very much more severe in that respect than the new law.—Yes.

Robert Weale, Esq., called in and Examined.

R. Weale, Esq.

16398. Mr. *Miles.*] YOU are an Assistant Poor Law Commissioner?—I am.

16399. Have you turned your attention to the making out certain statistical returns for the unions under your charge?—I have.

16400. Will you state the different heads under which you have arranged those different returns?—The name of the union; the date of the declaration; the date when the relief under the union commenced; number of parishes; extreme length of union; extreme breadth of union; number of districts for relieving officers; number of districts for medical officers; greatest distance of any parish from the place of meeting of the guardians; the greatest distance of any parish from the residence of the relieving officers, and the greatest distance of any parish from the residence of the medical officers; population in 1831; average expenditure for three years previous to the formation of the union; average cost per head on the gross population; expenditure for the year ending 25th of March 1838; average cost per head on the gross population; diminution of expenditure, as compared with the averages; increase of expenditure, as compared with the averages; decrease per cent.; increase per cent.; the number of paupers receiving relief previous to the formation of the union, in-door; the number of out-door, classified; average wages, including harvest, and other profitable seasons; number of workhouses; number of guardians; amount of salaries paid by the respective parishes previous to the formation of the union; amount of salaries paid on the 25th of March 1838;

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the number of medical clubs. [*The Witness delivered in the same.*—*Vide* Appendix, No. 1.] Also two series of questions proposed by Mr. Weale, on the 21st of October 1837, to the several boards of guardians in his district; where the rules and orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, prohibiting out-door relief to the able-bodied male paupers, are in operation, and the answers to such queries; similar questions to the unions where the prohibitory rule is not in force. [*The Witness delivered in the same.*—*Vide* Appendix, No. 2.]

16401. Does this return contain the information relative to those points in all the unions of which you, as Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, have charge? —Yes; with the exception of Stourbridge, which is not now under my direction.

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

County of Gloucester.

Summary of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner - p. 34

County of Somerset.

Summary of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner - p. 37

County of Worcester.

Summary of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner - p. 42

Appendix, No. 2.

Questions proposed by Mr. *Weale*, on the 21st of October 1837, to the several Boards of Guardians in his District, where the Rules and Orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, prohibiting Out-door Relief to the Able-bodied male Paupers, are in operation, and the Answers to such Queries p. 44

Questions proposed by Mr. *Weale*, on the 21st of October 1837, to the several Boards of Guardians in his District, where the Rules and Orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, prohibiting Out-door Relief to the able-bodied male Paupers, are not in operation, and the Answers to such Queries - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 48

Appendix, No. 3.

Ampthill Union.

Comparative Statement of the Incomes of Forty-eight Labourers of the Parish of Westoning, as shown by the Table of Mr. Turner, and subsequently by the Table of Mr. Pearse and Mr. Marshall; drawn up by Mr. Marshall - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 52

Appendix, No. 4.

Ampthill Union.

Comparative Statement of the Incomes of Thirty Labourers, as shown by the Tables of Mr. Turner, and subsequently by the Tables of Mr. Pearse and Mr. Marshall; drawn up by Mr. Marshall, p. 53

Appendix, No. 5.

Letter from R. M. Muggeridge, Esq. to J. N. Fazakerley, Esq., enclosing Return of Migration from the Woburn Union, Bedfordshire - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 54

Appendix, No. 1.

SUMMARY of UNIONS formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., ASSISTANT POOR LAW COMMISSIONER.

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

NAME OF UNION.	Date of Declaration.	Relief under Union commenced.	Number of Parishes.	Extreme Length of Union.	Extreme Breadth of Union.	Number of Districts for Relieving Officers.	Number of Districts for Medical Officers.	Greatest Distance of any Parish from the Place of Meeting of Guardians.	Greatest Distance of any Parish from the Residence of the Relieving Officer.	Greatest Distance of any Parish from the Residence of the Medical Officer.	Population in 1831.	Average Expenditure for Three Years previous to the formation of the Union.	Average Cost per Head on the Gross Population.	Expenditure for the Year ending the 25th of March 1838.	Average Cost per Head on the Gross Population.	Diminution of Expenditure as compared with the Averages.	Increase of Expenditure as compared with the Averages.	Decrease per Cent.	Increase per Cent.
				Ms. Fgs.	*Ms. Fgs.*			*Ms. Fgs.*	*Ms. Fgs.*	*Ms. Fgs.*		£.	*s. d.*	£.	*s. d.*	£.	£.	£.	£.
1. Cheltenham -	30 Oct. 1835	12 Dec. 1835	13	6 4	7 2	2	4	5 2	6 –	6 –	29,882	5,770	3 10 ¼	5,519	3 8 ¼	251	- -	4	—
2. Chipping Sodbury	11 Feb. 1836	30 Apr. 1836	23	11 4	9 –	2	4	5 6	7 –	7 –	17,931	8,921	11 – ¾	4,966	5 6 ¼	3,955	- -	44	—
3. Clifton - -	26 Mar. 1836	1 June 1836	12	6 –	7 1	4	6	6 –	5 4	4 –	51,345	17,863	6 11 ¼	15,534	6 – ½	2,329	- -	13	—
4. Dursley - -	16 Feb. 1836	1 June 1836	11	7 6	4 4	2	3	4 2	6 –	4 –	19,518	10,931	11 2 ¼	7,259	7 5 ¼	3,672	- -	33	—
5. Newent - -	7 Sept. 1835	17 Oct. 1835	18	10 –	13 –	2	3	6 –	8 –	7 –	11,049	5,093	9 2 ½	3,796	6 10 ½	1,297	- -	25	—
6. Stroud - -	15 Feb. 1836	1 June 1836	15	9 6	9 4	3	9	5 2	4 4	4 4	40,767	12,755	6 3 ¾	12,350	6 – ¾	405	- -	3	—
7. Tetbury - -	13 Feb. 1836	30 Apr. 1836	13	8 6	8 4	1	1	4 6	6 –	6 –	5,797	3,216	11 1	1,748	5 6 ¼	1,468	- -	46	—
8. Tewkesbury -	31 Oct. 1835	31 Dec. 1835	23	9 3	8 1	3	3	5 2	7 –	6 –	14,733	7,881	10 8 ¼	4,201	5 8 ½	3,680	- -	46	—
9. Thornbury -	17 Feb. 1836	1 June 1836	21	9 6	11 –	2	3	6 6	7 –	7 –	15,422	6,641	8 6 ½	5,299	6 10 ½	1,342	- -	20	—
10. Westbury-upon-Severn.	11 Sept. 1835	24 Oct. 1835	13	9 6	8 4	1	4	4 4	10 –	6 –	8,760	3,466	7 10 ¾	3,034	6 11	432	- -	12	—
11. Wheatenhurst *	4 Sept. 1835	1 Jan. 1836	14	8 1	9 3	2	1	4 4	6 –	6 –	7,770	3,606	9 3 ¼	4,137	10 – ¾	- -	531	- -	14
TOTALS - - -			176	- -	- -	24	41	- -	- -	- -	222,974	86,143	Average 7 8 ½	67,843	Average 6 1	18,831	- -	Average 20	—

* The Expenditure of this Union for the Year ending the 25th of March 1838 includes £. 1,259 for altering the Workhouse.

Appendix, No. 1.—Summary of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.—County of *Gloucester*—continued.

NAME OF UNION.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief previous to the formation of the Union. IN-DOOR. Able-bodied Adult Males.	Able-bodied Adult Females.	Aged, Impotent and Infirm. Males.	Aged, Impotent and Infirm. Females.	Children under 14 Years. Boys.	Children under 14 Years. Girls.	Total receiving In-door Relief.	Out-door Relief prohibited to Able-bodied Male Paupers.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief in the last Week of the Quarter ending 25th day of March 1838. IN-DOOR. Men. Able-bodied.	Men. Temporarily Disabled.	Men. Old and Infirm.	Youths. From 9 to 16 Years.	Boys. From 2 to 9 Years.	Women. Able-bodied.	Women. Temporarily Disabled.	Women. Old and Infirm.	Girls. From 9 to 16 Years.	Girls. From 2 to 9 Years.	Infants.	Total receiving In-door Relief.
1. Cheltenham	-	8	23	28	31	36	126	21 June 1836	1	26	16	14	19	2	31	32	9	18	7	175
2. Chipping Sodbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 Aug. 1836	1	-	16	6	14	15	2	5	9	11	15	94
3. Clifton	7	14	39	69	49	38	216	1 Aug. 1836	3	22	62	46	44	14	56	79	25	27	4	382
4. Dursley	1	13	38	25	56	27	160	1 Aug. 1836	16	11	13	37	32	32	16	14	25	22	15	233
5. Newent	1	8	20	22	15	9	75	21 June 1836	2	1	7	4	13	18	2	4	11	5	10	77
6. Stroud	2	1	10	15	18	6	52	1 Aug. 1836	23	2	49	55	54	53	7	41	38	27	33	382
7. Tetbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 Aug. 1836	-	1	3	-	6	4	-	4	3	4	2	27
8. Tewkesbury	1	6	16	21	14	28	86	21 June 1836	-	2	22	12	14	13	2	26	8	8	6	113
9. Thornbury	3	9	12	7	23	9	63	1 Aug. 1836	2	3	20	17	42	17	1	21	16	27	7	173
10. Westbury-upon-Severn	1	9	22	22	23	20	97	21 June 1836	-	4	7	7	3	6	2	11	6	4	4	54
11. Wheatenhurst	4	3	7	2	19	25	60	21 June 1836	2	-	9	10	10	9	3	10	11	10	4	78
Totals	20	71	187	211	248	198	935	-	50	72	224	208	251	183	122	247	161	163	107	1,788
Total number of Paupers receiving Relief on the formation of the several Unions																				935
Increase of Paupers on the 25th March 1838																				853

NAME OF UNION.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief previous to the formation of the Union. OUT-DOOR. Able-bodied married Men.	Wives and Children dependent on them.	Able-bodied single Men.	Able-bodied single Women.	Total Able-bodied receiving Out-door Relief.	Aged and Infirm Persons, Widows and Children. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total receiving Out-door Relief.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief in the last Week of the Quarter ending the 25th day of March 1838. OUT-DOOR. Able-bodied married Men.	Wives and Children dependent on them.	Able-bodied single Men.	Able-bodied single Women.	Total Able-bodied receiving Out-door Relief.	Aged and Infirm Persons, Widows and Children. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total receiving Out-door Relief.
1. Cheltenham	35	148	-	15	198	56	205	108	567	6	27	-	-	33	99	179	376	687
2. Chipping Sodbury	143	575	29	93	840	191	307	511	1,849	5	22	-	3	30	189	451	436	1,106
3. Clifton	62	205	6	102	375	290	640	845	2,150	-	-	-	-	-	385	770	89	1,244
4. Dursley	143	624	15	67	849	221	377	622	2,069	-	-	-	26	26	327	497	57	907
5. Newent	39	201	-	42	282	89	149	281	801	23	110	2	2	137	89	206	43	475
6. Stroud	160	908	15	43	1,126	369	734	672	2,901	62	272	6	43	383	460	1,175	871	2,889
7. Tetbury	69	321	8	50	448	79	114	126	767	22	74	3	7	106	52	144	90	392
8. Tewkesbury	139	656	8	49	852	145	179	180	1,356	28	147	-	22	197	122	203	157	679
9. Thornbury	129	622	17	79	847	175	291	392	1,705	10	39	1	3	53	148	361	27	587
10. Westbury-upon-Severn	43	197	-	59	299	81	133	136	649	9	36	-	-	45	100	224	18	387
11. Wheatenhurst	31	179	-	47	257	73	135	171	636	1	4	-	1	6	82	184	100	372
Totals	993	4,636	98	646	6,373	1,769	3,264	4,044	15,450	166	731	12	107	1,016	2,053	4,394	2,264	9,727
Increase of Paupers on the 25th March 1838, as compared with the numbers receiving Relief on the formation of the several Unions															284	1,130	—	—
Decrease - - - - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - ditto - - - - ditto										827	3,905	86	539	5,357	-	-	1,780	5,723

In the above Unions orders prohibiting out-door relief to able-bodied male-paupers are in operation; the paupers of this class who were in receipt of out-door relief on the 25th March 1838, received it in consequence of sickness or accident.

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Appendix, No. 1.—Summary of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.—County of *Gloucester*—continued.

NAME OF UNION.	Average Wages per day, including Harvest and other profitable Seasons, for Able-bodied Agricultural Labourers. MEN. At Day-work.	MEN. At Task-work.	WOMEN. At Day-work.	BOYS under 16 Years. At Day-work.	Gloving or Working in Manufactories. WOMEN. At Day-work.	GIRLS. At Day-work.
1. Cheltenham	1 *s.* 4 *d.*	1 *s.* 8 *d.*	8 *d.*	2 *d.*		
2. Chipping Sodbury	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	1 *s.* 9 *d.*	7 *d.*	4 *d.*	There are but two Manufactories (for hats) in this Union, at which from 10 to 12 women are employed, varying from 3 *s.* to 4 *s.* per week.	
3. Clifton	1 *s.* 8 *d.* to 2 *s.*	2 *s.*	10 *d.* to 1 *s.*	4 *d.* to 1 *s.*		
4. Dursley	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	8 ½ *d.*	5 ½ *d.*	1 *s.* 3 *d.*	8 *d.*
5. Newent	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	1 *s.* 9 *d.*	8 *d.*	6 *d.*	8 *d.*	5 *d.*
6. Stroud	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	1 *s.* 10 *d.*	8 *d.*	5 *d.*	10 *d.*	5 *d.*
7. Tetbury	1 *s.* 4 *d.*, exclusive of beer	1 *s.* 10 *d.* for the 16 summer weeks, and 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for the 36 other weeks, exclusive of beer.	8 *d.* and beer, in the harvest, and 6 *d.*, without beer, the residue of the year when they work, which is seldom in the winter.	3 *d.* to 10 *d.*, with beer, according to the age.	—	—
8. Tewkesbury	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	1 *s.* 8 *d.*	5 *d.*	4 *d.*	10 *d.*	9 *d.*
9. Thornbury	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	1 *s.* 8 *d.*	10 *d.*	6 *d.*	—	—
10. Westbury-upon-Severn	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	2 *s.*	1 *s.*	8 *d.*		
11. Wheatenhurst	1 *s.* 6 *d.*, including beer	1 *s.* 8 *d.*	9 *d.*, including beer	5 *d.*, including beer	10 *d.*	5 *d.*
Average	1 *s.* 5 ¼ *d.*	1 *s.* 8 ½ *d.*	8 ½ *d.*	5 ½ *d.*	7 ¾ *d.*	5 ¼ *d.*

NAME OF UNION.	Workhouses. Number in use previous to the Establishment of the Union.	Workhouses. Number now used.	Number of Guardians. Elected.	Ex-officio.	Total.	Amount of Salaries paid by the respective Parishes previous to the Union. Surgeons.	All other Officers.	Total.	Amount of Salaries now paid (25 March 1838.) Surgeons.	All other Officers.	Total.
						£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*
1. Cheltenham	2	2	27	21	48	148 5 –	421 5 –	569 10 –	150 – –	550 – –	700 – –
2. Chipping Sodbury	–	2	29	7	36	241 1 –	128 15 –	369 6 –	208 – –	335 – –	543 – –
3. Clifton	1	3	32	15	47	266 4 –	650 4 –	916 8 –	277 – –	1,335 10 –	1,612 10 –
4. Dursley	6	1	20	10	30	199 2 –	323 3 –	522 5 –	230 – –	483 16 –	713 16 –
5. Newent	1	1	25	7	32	190 8 –	214 3 –	404 11 –	155 – –	305 – –	460 – –
6. Stroud	1	2	31	18	49	321 14 –	574 19 –	896 13 –	257 – –	704 – –	961 – –
7. Tetbury	–	1	15	9	24	102 10 –	53 8 –	155 18 –	100 – –	172 – –	272 – –
8. Tewkesbury	1	2	30	5	35	183 16 –	152 – –	335 16 –	220 – –	379 – –	599 – –
9. Thornbury	2	3	26	11	37	200 15 –	128 18 –	329 13 –	180 – –	370 – –	550 – –
10. Westbury-upon-Severn	3	1	18	3	21	146 10 –	80 19 –	227 9 –	85 – –	265 – –	350 – –
11. Wheatenhurst	–	1	18	8	26	72 19 –	127 – –	199 19 –	100 – –	202 2 –	302 2 –
Totals	17	19	271	114	385	2,073 4 –	2,854 14 –	4,927 18 –	1,962 – –	5,101 8 –	7,063 8 –

Appendix, No. 1.—*continued.*

SUMMARY of UNIONS formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., ASSISTANT POOR LAW COMMISSIONER.

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

NAME OF UNION.	Date of Declaration.	Relief under Union Commenced	Number of Parishes.	Extreme Length of Union.	Extreme Breadth of Union.	Number of Districts for Relieving Officers.	Number of Districts for Medical Officers.	Greatest Distance of any Parish from place of Meeting of Guardians.	Greatest Distance of any Parish from the Residence of the Relieving Officer.	Greatest Distance of any Parish from the Residence of the Medical Officer.	Population in 1831.	Average Expenditure for Three Years previous to the Formation of the Union.	Average Cost per Head on the gross Population.	Expenditure for the Year ending the 25th of March 1838.	Average Cost per Head on the gross Population.	Diminution of Expenditure as compared with the Averages.	Increase of Expenditure as compared with the Averages.	Decrease per Cent.	Increase per Cent.
				Ms. Fgs.	*Ms. Fgs.*			*Ms. Fgs.*	*Ms. Fgs.*	*Ms. Fgs.*		£.	*s. d.*	£.	*s. d.*	£.		£.	
1. Axbridge	12 Jan. 1836	9 Feb. 1836	38	10 4	11 7	4	11	8 2	8 –	8 –	28,794	11,615	8 0¾	9,520	6 7¼	2,095	– –	18	—
2. Bath	8 Feb. 1836	1 June 1836	24	9 –	4 4	2	7	4 6	7 –	6 –	64,230	19,928	6 2	12,366	3 10	7,562	– –	38	—
3. Bedminster	28 Mar. 1836	21 June 1836	23	7 –	12 1	4	4	10 –	6 –	6 –	29,399	9,752	6 7½	7,587	5 1¾	2,165	– –	22	—
4. Bridgewater	16 Apr. 1836	21 June 1836	40	10 4	15 4	4	8	8 4	10 –	8 –	28,566	13,387	9 4½	10,401	7 3¼	2,986	– –	22	—
5. Chard	20 Apr. 1836	24 June 1836	34	7 6	11 3	3	5	9 –	7 –	8 –	24,434	10,056	8 2¾	7,349	6 –	2,707	– –	26	—
6. Clutton	13 Jan. 1836	9 Feb. 1836	29	6 5	9 7	4	5	6 –	5 –	7 –	22,377	9,172	8 2¼	8,211	7 4½	961	– –	10	—
7. Dulverton	23 Apr. 1836	24 June 1836	11	9 –	9 1	1	3	7 2	10 –	9 –	4,951	2,668	11 7¾	1,973	7 11½	695	– –	26	—
8. Frome	5 Feb. 1836	30 Apr. 1836	28	10 –	8 7	4	6	6 4	4 –	6 –	26,236	16,789	12 5	13,122	10 –	3,667	– –	22	—
9. Keynsham	10 Feb. 1836	13 Apr. 1836	19	9 4	8 –	3	4	5 4	7 –	7 –	20,205	7,004	6 11	6,063	6 –	941	– –	10	—
10. Langport	15 Apr. 1836	13 June 1836	29	9 1	12 7	2	5	8 4	5 6	6 2	16,354	5,417	6 7½	4,208	5 1¾	1,209	– –	28	—
11. Shepton Mallet	10 Dec. 1835	31 Jan. 1836	25	11 6	5 6	3	5	6 4	6 –	9 –	18,040	11,765	13 –½	10,044	11 1½	1,721	– –	14	—
12. Taunton	18 Apr. 1836	24 June 1836	38	12 2	15 6	4	8	9 2	8 –	8 –	31,378	17,158	10 11	11,926	7 7	5,232	– –	30	—
13. Wellington	23 Apr. 1836	24 June 1836	24	10 3	9 6	2	6	7 4	9 –	5 –	20,985	11,220	10 8¼	9,786	9 3¾	1,434	– –	13	—
14. Wells	11 Dec. 1835	31 Jan. 1836	18	11 5	6 1	2	2	7 6	6 –	6 –	19,237	7,683	7 11¾	5,916	6 1¾	1,767	– –	23	—
15. Williton	25 Apr. 1836	20 June 1836	36	10 4	25 4	4	5	17 –	9 –	12 –	18,047	9,297	10 3½	7,787	8 7½	1,510	– –	16	—
16. Wincanton	9 Dec. 1835	31 Jan. 1836	39	11 4	11 4	3	6	9 4	7 –	7 –	21,096	14,796	14 –¼	10,968	10 4¾	3,828	– –	26	—
17. Yeovil	19 Apr. 1836	24 June 1836	35	10 –	8 6	3	6	8 –	11 –	6 –	25,581	9,258	7 2¾	8,087	6 3¾	1,171	– –	12	—
	TOTALS		490	– –	– –	52	96	– – –	– – –	– – –	419,910	186,956	Average 8 10¾	145,314	Average 6 11½	41,642	– –	Average 22	—

4334

Appendix, No. 1.—SUMMARY of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.—County of *Somerset*—continued.

NAME OF UNION.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief previous to the formation of the Union. IN-DOOR.							Out-door Relief prohibited to Able-bodied Male Paupers.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief in the last Week of the Quarter ending the 25th day of March 1838. IN-DOOR.											
									Men.			Youths.	Boys.	Women.			Girls.		Infants.	Total receiving In-door Relief.
	Able-bodied Adult Males.	Able-bodied Adult Females.	Aged, Impotent and Infirm. Males.	Aged, Impotent and Infirm. Females.	Children under 14 Years. Boys.	Children under 14 Years. Girls.	Total receiving In-door Relief.		Able-bodied.	Tempo-rarily disabled.	Old and Infirm.	From 9 to 16 Years.	From 2 to 9 Years.	Able-bodied.	Tempo-rarily disabled.	Old and Infirm.	From 9 to 16 Years.	From 2 to 9 Years.		
1. Axbridge.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Bath - - - -	5	16	69	83	62	32	267	1 August 1836	12	27	56	65	55	21	55	78	36	59	28	492
3. Bedminster - - -	- -	5	18	18	15	8	64	- - -	–	2	21	10	15	7	7	16	11	11	5	105
4. Bridgewater - -	1	4	17	14	9	12	57	- - -	2	6	18	29	39	13	16	26	30	30	16	225
5. Chard - - -	2	10	45	30	23	20	130	- - -	2	4	20	14	27	5	15	14	12	9	8	130
6. Clutton - - -	—	—	—		—	—	—	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Dulverton - - -	—	—	—		—	—	—	- - -	–	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Frome - - -	6	10	26	35	22	30	129	- - -	7	19	14	17	28	29	14	10	11	18	16	183
9. Keynsham - - -	- -	4	9	19	10	10	52	1 August 1836	–	9	28	10	11	10	3	12	4	15	8	110
10. Langport - - -	- -	–	–	–	–	–	–	- - -	–	–	–	2	9	5	–	–	5	13	3	37
11. Shepton Mallet - -	- -	–	15	20	13	19	67	- - -	6	8	8	17	8	22	9	4	15	6	8	111
12. Taunton - - -	4	10	26	27	30	34	131	- - -	2	1	26	23	19	7	5	29	6	26	12	156
13. Wellington - - -	3	7	17	12	10	11	60	- - -	3	8	11	14	12	20	4	17	14	20	15	138
14. Wells - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Williton - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Wincanton - - -	- -	2	15	15	7	8	47	25 March 1837	1	8	16	8	15	11	12	2	5	3	5	86
17. Yeovil - - -	- -	8	16	13	7	8	52	- - -	1	17	14	10	15	5	16	19	8	14	3	122
TOTALS - - -	21	76	273	286	208	192	1,056	- - -	36	109	232	219	253	155	156	227	157	224	127	1,895
Total Number of Paupers receiving Relief on the formation of the several Unions - - -																				1,056
Increase of Paupers on the 25th March 1838 - - -																				839

Appendix, No. 1.—SUMMARY of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.—County of *Somerset*—continued.

NAME OF UNION.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief previous to the formation of the Union. OUT-DOOR.									Number of Paupers receiving Relief in the last Week of the Quarter ending the 25th of March 1838. OUT-DOOR.								
	Able-bodied Married Men.	Wives and Children dependent on them.	Able-bodied Single Men.	Able-bodied Single Women.	Total Able-bodied receiving Out-door Relief.	Aged and Infirm Persons, Widows and Children. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total receiving Out-door Relief.	Able-bodied Married Men.	Wives and Children dependent on them.	Able-bodied Single Men.	Able-bodied Single Women.	Total Able-bodied receiving Out-door Relief.	Aged and Infirm Persons, Widows and Children. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total receiving Out-door Relief.
1. Axbridge	99	475	2	11	587	339	552	534	2,012	70	291	34	98	493	305	603	213	1,614
2. Bath*	54	286	11	189	540	334	925	1,237	3,036	30	99	10	18	157	233	816	- -	1,206
3. Bedminster	86	286	16	27	415	203	361	410	1,389	52	188	7	29	276	253	528	622	1,679
4. Bridgewater	319	1,450	95	160	2,024	293	467	550	3,334	76	456	- -	1	533	358	702	588	2,181
5. Chard	261	1,410	21	121	1,813	230	476	365	2,884	80	507	3	7	597	321	695	546	2,159
6. Clutton	106	471	1	1	579	175	427	549	1,730	65	349	7	29	450	220	607	521	1,798
7. Dulverton	52	245	4	11	312	88	143	59	602	24	127	1	- -	152	81	180	85	498
8. Frome	264	1,144	68	187	1,663	468	798	871	3,800	51	234	6	18	309	437	1,004	165	1,915
9. Keynsham*	61	202	22	34	319	172	356	559	1,406	40	134	9	9	192	150	515	361	1,218
10. Langport	127	630	30	96	883	148	250	389	1,670	66	298	11	49	424	136	290	240	1,090
11. Shepton Mallet	151	722	- -	35	908	418	623	366	2,315	3	12	- -	- -	15	419	867	677	1,978
12. Taunton	286	1,428	80	161	1,955	317	520	504	3,296	219	1,168	7	113	1,507	432	640	91	2,670
13. Wellington	282	1,395	7	24	1,708	340	620	461	3,129	228	1,078	7	30	1,343	352	596	42	2,333
14. Wells	68	473	- -	16	557	229	366	227	1,379	37	137	11	51	236	193	525	371	1,325
15. Williton	238	1,222	24	63	1,547	300	460	390	2,697	91	504	2	79	676	351	676	531	2,234
16. Wincanton*	370	1,830	34	48	2,282	283	494	518	3,577	34	184	3	10	231	453	837	915	2,436
17. Yeovil	139	684	12	103	938	261	413	490	2,102	55	335	5	4	399	339	714	722	2,174
TOTALS	2,963	14,353	427	1,287	19,030	4,598	8,251	8,479	40,358	1,221	6,101	123	545	7,990	5,033	10,795	6,690	30,508
Increase of Paupers on the 25th March 1838, as compared with the Numbers receiving Relief on the formation of the several Unions										- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	435	2,544	—	—
Decrease ditto ditto ditto										1,742	8,252	304	742	11,040	- -	- -	1,789	9,850

* In these Unions Orders prohibiting out-door relief to able-bodied male paupers are in operation; the paupers of this class who were in receipt of out-door relief on the 25th March 1838, received it in consequence of sickness or accident.

Appendix, No. 1.—Summary of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.—County of *Somerset*—continued.

NAME OF UNION.	Average Wages per day, including Harvest and other profitable Seasons, for					
	Able-bodied Agricultural Labourers.				Gloving or Working in Manufactories.	
	MEN.		WOMEN.	BOYS under 16 years.	WOMEN.	GIRLS.
	At Day-work.	At Task-work.	At Day-work.	At Day-work.	At Day-work.	At Day-work.
1. Axbridge	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	1 *s.* 7 *d.*	8 *d.*	5 *d.*	1 *s.* 1½ *d.*	7 *d.*
2. Bath	In summer, 2 *s.* 2 *d.*, in winter, 1 *s.* 9 *d.*	In summer, 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, in winter, 1 *s.* 11 *d.*	in summer, 1 *s.*, in winter, 10 *d.*	in summer, 6 *d.*, in winter, 5 *d.*		
3. Bedminster	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	2 *s.*	1 *s.*	6 *d.*		
4. Bridgewater	1 *s.* 2 *d.*, and three pints of ale or cider.	supposed to be 1 *s.* 8 *d.*	8 *d.*	4 *d.*	no manufactory in the union; a little silk is spun at Bridgewater; the earnings are 6 *d.*	3 *d.*
5. Chard	1 *s.* 2 *d.*, with liquor; 1 *s.* 4 *d.*, without ditto.	1 *s.* 6 *d.*, with liquor	7 *d.*, with liquor	From 8 to 10 years of age, 5 *d.*, with liquor; from 12 to 16 years of age, 6 *d.*, with liquor.	8½ *d.*	3½ *d.*
6. Clutton	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	1 *s.* 8 *d.*	8 *d.* to 1 *s.*	6 *d.*		10 *d.*
7. Dulverton	1 *s.* 2 *d.*	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	8 *d.*	6 *d.*		8 *d.*
8. Frome	1 *s.* 4 *d.*	1 *s.* 8 *d.*	8 *d.*	4 *d.*	10 *d.*	4½ *d.*
9. Keynsham	1 *s.* 8 *d.* in winter, and 2 *s.* in summer, with more or less food.	on railroad, from 2 *s.* 4 *d.* to 3 *s.*; farm work, about 1 *s.* 10 *d.*	8 *d.* in winter, 10 *d.* in summer, and some food.	6 *d.* in winter, 8 *d.* in summer; on railroad, 1 *s.*	6 *d.* to 8 *d.* at pin-heading	4 *d.* to 5 *d.* at pin-heading.
10. Langport	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	2 *s.* for three months	8 *d.* for five months	5 *d.*	6 *d.*	4 *d.*
11. Shepton Mallet	1 *s.* 4 *d.*		7 *d.* to 8 *d.*	4 *d.*	5 *d.* to 1 *s.*	1 *d.* to 4½ *d.*
12. Taunton	1 *s.* 2 *d.*, with liquor, valued at 4 *d.*	1 *s.* 6 *d.*, with liquor, valued at 3 *d.*	7 *d.* to 8 *d.*, with liquor, valued at 3 *d.*	3 *d.* to 8 *d.*, according to age and strength, with liquor, valued at 2 *d.*	8 *d.* to 11 *d.*	2 *d.* to 8 *d.*
13. Wellington	Day and task-work together, equal to 1 *s.* 6 *d.*		7 *d.*	6 *d.*	in woollen manufactory, 9 *d.*	in woollen manufactory, from 14 to 16 years of age, 7 *d.*; in silk, from 2½ *d.* to 10 *d.*, according to their skill.
14. Wells	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	2 *s.*	9 *d.*	6 *d.*	6 *d.*	4 *d.*
15. Williton	1 *s.* 2 *d.*, with liquor, valued at 2 *d.*	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	6 *d.*, and liquor, valued at 1 *d.*	6 *d.* and liquor, valued at 1 *d.*		
16. Wincanton	1 *s.* 3 *d.*, with liquor	1 *s.* 6 *d.*, with liquor	7 *d.*, with liquor	5 *d.*, with liquor	6 *d.*	6 *d.*
17. Yeovil	1 *s.* 3 *d.*	1 *s.* 6 *d.*	7 *d.*	4 *d.*	5 *d.*	4 *d.*
Average	1 *s.* 5½ *d.*	1 *s.* 8½ *d.*	8½ *d.*	5½ *d.*	7¾ *d.*	5½ *d.*

Appendix, No. 1.—Summary of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.—County of *Somerset*—continued.

NAME OF UNION.	Workhouses.		Number of Guardians.			Amount of Salaries paid by the respective Parishes previous to the Union.			Amount of Salaries now paid (25th March 1838).		
	Number in use previous to the Establishment of the Union.	Number now used.	Elected.	Ex-officio.	Total.	Surgeons.	All other Officers.	Total.	Surgeons.	All other Officers.	Total.
						£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1. Axbridge	–	–	49	8	57	455 14 –	261 19 –	717 13 –	400 – –	450 – –	850 – –
2. Bath	1	2	41	20	61	389 11 –	1,310 4 –	1,699 15 –	380 – –	1,244 12 –	1,624 12 –
3. Bedminster	–	1	34	11	45	220 17 –	285 13 –	506 10 –	245 – –	625 – –	870 – –
4. Bridgewater	–	1	48	15	63	465 2 –	433 1 –	898 3 –	435 – –	625 – –	1,060 – –
5. Chard	3	1	43	5	48	369 6 –	314 8 –	683 14 –	304 – –	568 – –	872 – –
6. Clutton	–	–	37	8	45	256 2 –	260 8 –	516 10 –	302 – –	365 – –	667 – –
7. Dulverton	–	–	12	1	13	108 – –	59 18 –	167 18 –	95 10 –	132 – –	227 10 –
8. Frome	1	1	36	9	45	361 19 –	344 18 –	706 17 –	340 – –	635 16 –	975 16 –
9. Keynsham	–	1	26	3	29	102 3 –	260 10 –	362 13 –	250 – –	465 – –	715 – –
10. Langport	–	1	34	8	42	246 9 –	103 9 –	349 18 –	237 – –	410 – –	647 – –
11. Shepton Mallet	–	1	31	10	41	190 4 –	268 15 –	458 19 –	311 – –	455 – –	766 – –
12. Taunton	–	2	51	18	69	474 12 –	489 2 –	963 14 –	410 – –	515 – –	925 – –
13. Wellington	2	1	34	6	40	302 – –	274 8 –	576 8 –	263 – –	531 16 –	794 16 –
14. Wells	–	–	27	8	35	247 5 –	271 16 –	519 1 –	220 – –	420 – –	640 – –
15. Williton	–	–	41	10	51	351 2 –	204 13 –	555 15 –	257 – –	454 – –	711 – –
16. Wincanton	–	1	43	9	52	452 2 9	204 2 –	656 4 9	368 – –	472 – –	840 – –
17. Yeovil	1	1	47	5	52	472 12 –	312 10 –	785 2 –	322 – –	454 – –	776 – –
Totals	8	14	634	154	788	5,465 – 9	5,659 14 –	11,124 14 9	5,139 10 –	8,822 4 –	13,961 14 –

NAME OF UNION.	MEDICAL CLUBS ESTABLISHED.	
	Number.	TERMS.
Keynsham	1	Each individual above the age of 14 years to pay 1 *s.* 0 *d.* per quarter. Each child under 14 years ,, 6 *d.* ,, If more than five children in one family, each additional child to be entitled to the benefits of the club without extra charge.
Wincanton	–	There are many Medical Clubs in this Union, but I cannot state the number, nor can I state the terms, as they differ in different parts of the Union, but I believe the average subscription is 2 *s.* for single persons, and 5 *s.* for a man and his wife and children under 16.

Robert Clarke, Clerk to the Union.

Appendix, No. 1.—*continued.*

SUMMARY of Unions formed by *Robert Weale*, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

NAME OF UNION.	Date of Declaration.	Relief under Union commenced.	Number of Parishes.	Extreme Length of Union.	Extreme Breadth of Union.	Number of Districts for Relieving Officers.	Number of Districts for Medical Officers.	Greatest Distance of any Parish from the Place of Meeting of the Guardians.	Greatest Distance of any Parish from the Residence of the Relieving Officers.	Greatest Distance of any Parish from the Residence of the Medical Officers.	Population in 1831.	Average Expenditure for Three Years previous to the Formation of the Union.	Average Cost per Head on the Gross Population.	Expenditure for the Year ending the 25th of March 1838.	Average Cost per Head on the Gross Population.	Diminution of Expenditure as compared with the Averages.	Increase of Expenditure as compared with the Averages.	Decrease per Cent.	Increase per Cent.
				Ms. Fgs.	*Ms. Fgs.*			*Ms. Fgs.*	*Ms. Fgs.*	*Ms. Fgs.*		£.	*s. d.*	£.	*s. d.*	£.	£.	£.	£.
1. Bromsgrove	15 Oct. 1836	26 Dec. 1836	13	8 1	7 6	2	3	7 –	7 –	8 –	19,843	6,333	6 4½	5,158	5 2½	1,175	- -	18	—
2. Droitwich	16 Sept. 1836	16 Nov. 1836	26	9 3	9 –	3	5	6 –	7 4	6 –	15,687	7,697	9 9⅝	5,813	7 4⅝	1,884	- -	24	—
3. Kidderminster	20 Sept. 1836	25 Dec. 1836	13	6 5	9 –	2	5	5 –	8 –	5 4	29,908	11,733	7 10	8,579	5 8⅝	3,154	- -	26	—
4. Martley	14 Sept. 1836	14 Nov. 1836	31	12 2	8 6	2	4	6 6	7 –	6 –	13,123	5,520	7 7	3,943	6 –	1,577	- -	28	—
5. Pershore	28 Sept. 1835	14 Nov. 1835	40	12 –	9 –	3	3	8 –	10 –	12 –	12,563	5,917	9 5	3,905	6 2½	2,012	- -	34	—
6. Upton-upon-Severn.	29 Oct. 1835	12 Dec. 1835	22	14 6	8 –	2	4	7 4	7 –	8 –	13,491	7,691	11 4¾	4,625	6 10¼	3,066	- -	40	—
7. Worcester	22 Nov. 1836	26 Jan. 1837	12	3 –	2 4	2	2	1 2	1 –	1 –	26,542	6,140	4 7½	5,915	4 5¼	225	- -	4	—
													Average		Average			Average	
	Totals		157	- -	- -	16	26	- -	- -	- -	131,157	51,031	7 9¾	37,938	5 9¼	13,093	- -	25	

NAME OF UNION.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief previous to the Formation of the Union. IN-DOOR.							Out-door Relief prohibited to able-bodied Male Paupers.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief in the last Week of the Quarter ending the 25th day of March 1838. IN-DOOR.										
	Able-bodied Adult Males.	Able-bodied Adult Females.	Aged, Impotent and Infirm.		Children under 14 Years.		Total receiving In-door Relief.		Men.			Youths.	Boys.	Women.			Girls.		Infants.	Total receiving In-door Relief.
			Males.	Females.	Boys.	Girls.			Able-bodied.	Tempo-rarily disabled.	Old and Infirm.	From 9 to 16 Years.	From 2 to 9 Years.	Able-bodied.	Tempo-rarily disabled.	Old and Infirm.	From 9 to 16 Years.	From 2 to 9 Years.		
1. Bromsgrove	1	4	18	17	6	7	53	- - -	1	1	15	1	14	7	11	18	4	11	10	93
2. Droitwich	- -	1	10	9	2	5	27	- - -	1	7	11	9	13	16	5	13	6	11	10	102
3. Kidderminster	- -	9	58	46	31	20	164	- - -	13	13	36	3	24	32	16	21	26	35	15	234
4. Martley	- -	2	2	- -	5	3	12	- - -	- -	4	4	6	8	8	4	2	11	15	3	65
5. Pershore	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	25 Mar. 1837	- -	1	14	2	9	5	1	9	2	6	4	53
6. Upton-upon-Severn	1	2	12	18	5	4	42	1 Aug. 1836	4	- -	8	4	4	9	2	13	10	8	7	69
7. Worcester	1	6	28	47	20	11	113	- - -	8	7	33	9	23	13	4	39	18	12	5	171
Totals	3	24	128	137	69	50	411	- - -	27	33	121	34	95	90	43	115	77	98	54	787

Total Number of Paupers receiving Relief previous to the Formation of the several Unions - - - 411

Increase of Paupers on the 25th March 1838 - - - 376

NAME OF UNION.	Number of Paupers receiving Relief previous to the Formation of the Union. OUT-DOOR.									Number of Paupers receiving Relief in the last Week of the Quarter ending the 25th day of March 1838. OUT-DOOR.								
	Able-bodied Married Men.	Wives and Children dependent on them.	Able-bodied Single Men.	Able-bodied Single Women.	Total Able-bodied receiving Out-door Relief.	Aged and Infirm Persons, Widows and Children. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total receiving Out-door Relief.	Able-bodied Married Men.	Wives and Children dependent on them.	Able-bodied Single Men.	Able-bodied Single Women.	Total Able-bodied receiving Out-door Relief.	Aged and Infirm Persons, Widows and Children. Men.	Women.	Children.	Total receiving Out-door Relief.
1. Bromsgrove	15	55	1	24	95	143	235	265	738	27	132	1	2	162	193	460	432	1,247
2. Droitwich	96	409	9	94	608	156	230	299	1,293	16	68	2	3	89	145	352	268	854
3. Kidderminster	17	51	–	9	77	273	510	266	1,126	141	837	2	11	991	235	475	74	1,775
4. Martley	87	368	5	21	481	141	244	303	1,169	1	7	–	2	10	226	287	365	888
5. Pershore *	114	585	1	51	751	123	203	151	1,228	17	83	2	6	108	117	288	161	674
6. Upton-upon-Severn *	186	739	5	57	987	162	188	236	1,573	12	59	–	–	71	160	271	468	970
7. Worcester	17	83	1	123	224	78	186	344	832	14	71	4	3	92	92	379	420	983
Totals	532	2,290	22	379	3,223	1,076	1,796	1,864	7,959	228	1,257	11	27	1,523	1,168	2,512	2,188	7,391
Increase of Paupers on the 25th of March 1838, as compared with the numbers receiving relief on the formation of the several Unions															92	716	324	
Decrease ditto ditto ditto ditto ditto										304	1,033	11	352	1,700				568

* In these Unions orders prohibiting out-door relief to able-bodied male paupers are in operation; the paupers of this class who were in receipt of out-door relief on the 25th of March 1838 received it consequence of sickness or accident.

NAME OF UNION.	Average Wages per day, including Harvest and other profitable Seasons, for Able-bodied Agricultural Labourers. MEN. At Day-work.	MEN. At Task-work.	WOMEN. At Day-work.	BOYS under 16 years. At Day-work.	Gloving or Working in Manufactories. WOMEN. At Day-work.	GIRLS. At Day-work.
1. Bromsgrove	1s. 8d.	1s. 10d.	8d.	6d. to 9d.	8d.	3d. to 6d.
2. Droitwich	1s. 6d., with liquor	1s. 9d. to 2s.	7d. to 8d.	4d. to 8d.	6d.	4d. to 6d.
3. Kidderminster	1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d.	2s. to 2s. 4d.	8d.	6d.	10d.	9d.
4. Martley	1s. 4d.	1s. 6d.	6d.	4d.	8d.	3d.
5. Pershore	1s. 4d.	1s. 6d.	6d.	4d.	4d.	3d.
6. Upton-upon-Severn	1s. 2d.	1s. 6d.	7d.	4d.	5d.	
7. Worcester	1s. 6d.	2s.	9d.	4d.	8d.	3d. to 4d.
Average	1s. 5½d.	1s. 9¼d.	7¼d.	4½d.	7d.	4½d.

NAME OF UNION.	Workhouses. Number in use previous to the Establishment of the Union.	Workhouses. Number now used.	Number of Guardians. Elected.	Ex-officio.	Total.	Amount of Salaries paid by the respective Parishes previous to to the Union. Surgeons.	All other Officers.	Total.	Amount of Salaries now paid (25 March 1838.) Surgeons.	All other Officers.	Total.
						£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1. Bromsgrove	2	1	19	11	30	211 7 –	373 3 –	584 10 –	170 – –	370 – –	540 – –
2. Droitwich	3	3	29	12	41	375 – –	306 1 –	681 1 –	270 – –	470 – –	740 – –
3. Kidderminster	–	2	21	14	35	289 14 –	496 15 –	786 9 –	255 – –	626 4 –	881 4 –
4. Martley	–	2	31	7	38	232 13 –	192 – –	424 13 –	210 – –	305 – –	515 – –
5. Pershore	–	1	43	7	50	191 4 –	90 13 –	281 17 –	260 – –	361 16 –	621 16 –
6. Upton-upon-Severn	–	1	28	12	40	255 12 –	270 – –	525 12 –	190 – –	342 – –	532 – –
7. Worcester	1	1	22	10	32	178 12 –	433 17 –	612 9 –	200 – –	590 16 4	790 16 4
Totals	6	11	193	73	266	1,734 2 –	2,162 9 –	3,896 11 –	1,555 – –	3,065 16 4	4,620 16 4

Appendix, No. 2.

QUESTIONS proposed by Mr. *Weale*, on the 21st of October 1837, to the several Boards of Guardians in his District, Paupers, are in Operation, and the

NAMES of UNIONS.	1. Has there been any Rise or Diminution in the Rate of Wages since your last Return to me in April last?	2. Has Task-work been more given since that Period?	3. Has Task-work been more given since the formation of your Union, and particularly since the Order prohibiting Out-door Relief to the Able-bodied Male Paupers has been in force?	4. Is there, since the formation of your Union, and especially since the Rule prohibiting Out-door Relief to the Able-bodied Male Paupers, a greater disposition on the part of the Employers of Labour to give Employment to Labourers and to their Wives and Children; and have the Labourers evinced a greater or less desire to obtain and keep independent Employment?	5. Has the Rule prohibiting Out-door Relief to the Able-bodied Male Paupers, in the judgment of your Board, on the whole acted beneficially, or otherwise, to the Labouring Classes?
GLOUCESTER:					
Cheltenham	None	- - No alteration in this respect.	- - No alteration in this respect.	There is	Beneficially
Chipping Sodbury.	- - Generally speaking, about the same as for the last two years.	- - About the same as previous to that period.	- - Not much more given, but more anxiously sought for.	- - There is a greater demand for labourers, and more employment for their families (there are no surplus hands in this neighbourhood), and a very perceptible difference in the desire of the labourer to keep employment when he has it.	Very beneficially
Clifton	- - The board are not aware of having made a return in April last, but there has been no material rise or diminution in the rate of wages since that time.	- - There has been no alteration.	- - There has been little or no difference with regard to task-work.	- - We believe that the disposition of employers to give work and of labourers to seek for work is somewhat increased, but the circumstances of the several parishes of this union are not such as to allow this in any very marked degree.	On the whole beneficially
Dursley	- - No perceptible rise or diminution.	- - No perceptible difference.	- - None of the guardians present are aware of any difference.	- - Both these questions answered in the affirmative.	- - In the judgment of the board, the rule has acted beneficially.
Gloucester	- - In the agricultural district of this union, wages are usually advanced about 1 *s.* per week in the summer season, and reduced again as the days become shorter towards winter. The usual advance has taken place this season, and in some parishes there has been inclination towards a farther rise, and throughout the district there has existed a buoyancy in wages during the season.	- - Much the same as usual.	- - Very little difference.	- - No lack of employment has existed among the labourers of this district for some time; but we do not venture to assert that the new system of poor relief has influenced the demand for labour, this district never having suffered enough from the prevalence of pauperism to have made the farmers in general calculate much upon the diminution of the poor rates.	- - The board of guardians have very seldom had occasion to put the rule in force, as few applications from able-bodied labourers have been made, but in some such instances, where out-relief has been refused, we are aware that it has operated beneficially.
Newent	- - We are not aware of any change having taken place since the last return.	No material alteration	- - No material alteration.	- - To the former part of this question we reply, "we think not;" as regards the labourers themselves, there is certainly reason to believe that they have depended more upon their own exertions, and shown a disposition to obtain and keep independent employment.	- - It has not, in this district, made any great change, as this part of the country has always been considered very favourable to the labourers. In particular instances, however, severe privations have been endured by the operation of the rule, and it will always be the case, unless some discretionary power is vested in the board of guardians in reference to them.
Stroud	No alteration	- - No alteration, except that which is at this season of the year always consequent upon harvest-work.	- - It has not usually been the case, except in cases where paupers have been set to work to keep them off the parish; these persons are generally worked by task.	- - We think there has been this desire to employ to a greater extent, but in a manufacturing district and during the great depression of trade lately experienced, it cannot operate so extensively as where the population is entirely agricultural, because the people cannot do out-door work; but there has certainly been more value set by workmen on good places of work.	- - Generally we should say beneficially, but in times of great dearth of employment in manufacturing districts, such as the past year has been, it is the opinion of this board the rule cannot be strictly adhered to.
Tetbury	None	No	No	- - There has been a greater disposition on the part of the employers of labour to give employment generally, and the labourers have evinced a greater desire to obtain and keep independent employment.	- - It has acted beneficially for the labouring classes generally.

Appendix, No. 2.

where the Rules and Orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, prohibiting Out-door Relief to the Able-bodied Male Answers to such Queries.

6. According to the judgment of your Board, is the Prospect of Employment for the ensuing Winter as good as it was in the last, or in the three last preceding Winters?	7. Is there a Prospect of an Advance or Diminution of Wages during the ensuing Winter, as compared with the Statement before referred to?	8. Is the Price of Provisions for the ensuing Winter expected to be greater or less than during the last; and can you form any judgment of the Amount of Difference?	9. Have the Labouring Classes, since the formation of your Union, shown any disposition to Riot, and have any acts of Incendiarism been committed; and if so, can such acts be attributed to the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act?	10. Have you observed any, and what, Change in the Morals and general Habits of the Labouring Classes?	11. What Effect has the Change of System produced on the Aged, the Impotent, and the Helpless?	12. What is about the Average Annual Rent of the Cottages of the Agricultural Labourers; and, in the judgment of your Board, is it higher than it ought to be; and has it varied since the formation of your Union?
Much the same - -	- - No material alteration is anticipated.	The same - -	None whatever -	None - - -	- - To increase their comforts.	- - The average rent is about 3 *l.* 10 *s.* per annum, which bears a fair proportion to the rate of wages; no material variation has taken place since the formation of this union.
Quite as good - -	- - It is considered there will be no alteration.	- - Both bread and potatoes are expected to be less in price, but the difference cannot at present be calculated upon.	- - There has not been the least disposition to riot shown, nor has any act of incendiarism been committed.	- - They are now much more industrious, more provident, and more anxious to bring up their families in habits of industry.	- - It has tended to render them much more comfortable, and has much improved their condition.	- - Rents vary from 3 *l.* to 5 *l.*; considered to be not quite so high as before, but command good rents in consequence of the difficulty of getting such houses in most of the parishes of this union.
- - The demand for work on the rail-roads has caused few good workmen to be out of employ in this neighbourhood, and there seems no reason to apprehend a diminution of employment.	- - Wages seem stationary.	- - It is supposed that provisions will be somewhat reduced.	- - There have been no riots or acts o incendiarism nor disposition to riot.	- - Little or no alteration.	None whatever -	- - The average rents is thought to be from 4 *l.* to 6 *l.* per annum; there has been no variation.
- - Quite as good in the agricultural parishes, but considerably worse in the manufacturing parishes.	- - Neither an advance nor diminution of wages is contemplated during the ensuing winter.	- - The price of provisions during the ensuing winter is expected to be somewhat lower, but the board cannot form a judgment of the amount of difference.	None - -	- - No change for the better.	- - A beneficial change.	- - Average annual rent, 2 *l.* 10 *s.* per annum; not higher than it ought to be, and has not varied.
Yes - - -	Much the same -	- - It is probable that the price of potatoes will be much reduced, but other articles of consumption will be much the same.	- - Nothing of the kind has occurred.	- - Not much change as yet.	- - The relief afforded to the aged and infirm is more uniform, if not greater in amount, than that which they enjoyed before the formation of the union.	- - The rent of cottages varies much, but the average is from 3 *l.* to 6 *l.* a year, which, considering the wages of the labourers in general, is too high; no perceptible alteration has taken place in the rent of cottages since the formation of the union.
- - We have no reason to think that it will be worse than in the last year.	- - We see no prospect of any advance, but that the rate of wages will be the same as usual.	- - Less; but in a very small degree.	- - Nothing of the kind has taken place in this union.	- - No perceptible difference, as on the whole the people of this district are very orderly and well-disposed, and as little to be found fault with as those in any part of the country.	- - The most wholesome and beneficial, as their condition has been amended and improved in every respect.	- - From 3 *l.* 3 *s.* to 5 *l.* 5 *s.* a year; generally speaking they are high, and the rate has not risen since the formation of the union.
- - We think scarcely so good as last winter, and certainly not half so good as the three last preceding winters.	No alteration -	- - Very little difference, if any.	- - No such disposition has been evinced.	- - We think character is more valued, and that there is generally more civility towards superiors, and that a general apprehension exists among the labouring classes of the greater necessity of caring for themselves.	- - In all these respects a great improvement is most certainly effected.	- - From 2 *l.* to 3 *l.*, which is not too high, and it has not altered since the formation of the union.
- - About the same as the last, indeed the three last preceding winters.	- - Neither advance nor diminution.	- - About the same price as last winter.	- - Neither riot nor incendiarism.	- - Their morals and habits are generally improved.	- - The system has been upon the whole advantageous to these characters.	- - The average annual rent in the villages 3 *l.*, and in the town of Tetbury 4 *l.*, and certainly generally higher than it ought to be; and no variation since the formation of the union.

(*continued.*)

Appendix, No. 2.—Questions proposed by Mr. *Weale* to the Boards of

NAMES of UNIONS.	1. Has there been any Rise or Diminution in the Rate of Wages since your last Return to me in April last?	2. Has Task-work been more given since that Period?	3. Has Task-work been more given since the formation of your Union, and particularly since the Order prohibiting Out-door Relief to the Able-bodied Male Paupers has been in force?	4. Is there, since the formation of your Union, and especially since the Rule prohibiting Out-door Relief to the Able-bodied Male Paupers, a greater disposition on the part of the Employers of Labour to give Employment to Labourers and to their Wives and Children; and have the Labourers evinced a greater or less desire to obtain and keep independent Employment?	5. Has the Rule prohibiting Out-door Relief to the Able-bodied Male Paupers, in the judgment of your Board, on the whole acted beneficially, or otherwise, to the Labouring Classes?
GLOUCESTER—*continued.*					
Tewkesbury	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Thornbury	-- Certainly no diminution; and, if any change, there has been an increase.	-- We are not aware of any difference.	-- We do not remark any difference.	-- We are not aware of any change on the part of the employers in giving increased employment to labourers, but we are of opinion that the labourers have evinced a greater desire to obtain and keep employment.	Beneficially
Westbury-upon-Severn.	-- The rate of wages has continued nearly the same since our last return.	-- The general occupations of the agricultural labourer within this union, such as mowing, reaping, threshing, hedging, &c., have always been matter of task-work, and the same may also be said with regard to the employment of those who are engaged in the extensive collieries of the Forest of Dean, to which our largest parishes adjoin.	-- There has been little alteration in this respect since the formation of the union.	-- The disposition of the employers of labour to give work to the industrious and their families is the same now that it has ever been, and the operation of the Act has in all respects, but particularly by withholding relief from able-bodied male paupers, taught the labourer the value of maintaining a connexion with the same employer; indeed it has been the constant observation of our board, that the labourer who continued in the service of the same master was always in a better state than one who, frequently changing his place, obtained a much larger price for occasional task-work.	-- We think that, as a general rule, it has acted beneficially.
Wheatenhurst	-- Only the usual diminution of about 1 *s.* a week for the winter.	-- Task-work has always been allowed, where it could be done; it continues to be so now as usual.	No alteration	-- Before the union there were hardly any out of employ; this is so now; some labourers who were formerly idle are more inclined to work; and the applications for relief from able-bodied persons are not so frequent as they used to be; the labourers are more inclined to get work for their children than they were.	Beneficially
SOMERSET:					
Bath	None	-- Already much given, but not more than before.	No	-- There is no increased disposition to employ labourers on the part of the farmers; the labourers have evinced a much greater desire to obtain and keep independent employment.	Very beneficially to the labourers
Keynsham	-- There appears to be no alteration.	-- A considerable quantity of the labour has always been performed in this union by task, and there is very little alteration.	-- The last answer applies to this.	-- The employers are not more disposed to employ labourers than formerly; the labourers, in some few instances, appear to evince a greater desire to continue in their situations, but from the railroad, which runs through the union, employing so many labourers, is not generally the case.	-- There has not been a sufficient number of applications from able-bodied labourers to enable this board to form a decisive opinion.
Wincanton	No alteration	No alteration	No	-- There is a greater disposition on the part of employers to give employment; and on the part of labourers and of their wives and children, to obtain and keep independent labour.	-- Beneficially, in the opinion of the board.
WORCESTER:					
Pershore	None	It has, generally	Certainly	-- Generally; it has made the lower classes look out for employment.	Beneficially
Upton-upon-Severn.	-- A rise in the rate of wages has certainly taken place since April last.	-- Both employers and labourers have certainly evinced a desire to adopt this system.	-- Both employers and labourers have certainly evinced a desire to adopt this system.	-- We are of opinion they have evidently evinced a greater desire to obtain independent employment.	-- We consider that it has had a very beneficial effect; the labourers, having now hardly any chance of every real or imaginary want being relieved by the parish, are becoming more prudent and economical.

Guardians in his District, with the Answers—*continued*.

6. According to the judgment of your Board, is the Prospect of Employment for the ensuing Winter as good as it was in the last, or in the three last preceding Winters?	7. Is there a Prospect of an Advance or Diminution of Wages during the ensuing Winter, as compared with the Statement before referred to?	8. Is the Price of Provisions for the ensuing Winter expected to be greater or less than during the last; and can you form any judgment of the Amount of Difference?	9. Have the Labouring Classes, since the formation of your Union, shown any disposition to Riot, and have any acts of Incendiarism been committed; and if so, can such acts be attributed to the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act?	10. Have you observed any, and what, Change in the Morals and general Habits of the Labouring Classes?	11. What Effect has the Change of System produced on the Aged, the Impotent, and the Helpless?	12. What is about the Average Annual Rent of the Cottages of the Agricultural Labourers; and, in the judgment of your Board, is it higher than it ought to be; and has it varied since the formation of your Union?
Yes - - -	No - - -	- - A trifle less, probably 5 per cent.	No - - -	- - They are certainly improved.	- - Their situation is much improved.	- - The average rent of cottages with gardens in this union is about 3*l.* 10*s.* per annum, which is not more than their worth, and they have not varied since the formation of the union.
- - The prospect is quite as good.	- - We do not anticipate any diminution.	- - We believe the price of provisions, in the ensuing winter, will be less than in the last; but cannot form any judgment of the probable difference.	- - There has not been the least disposition to riot, nor has there been any act of incendiarism.	- - A general progressive improvement.	- - They are better provided for.	- - The average rent of a cottage with about 20 perches of garden ground is about 4*l.*; we think this rent (with reference to agricultural wages) is high; we are not aware of any alteration since the formation of the union.
- - The prospect of employment for the ensuing winter is quite as good as it was in the last and three preceding winters.	- - The probability is that there will be no advance or diminution of wages during the ensuing winter.	- - The price of provisions is now much the same as it was at the same period in the last year, and there is no prospect that there will be any increase to affect the labourers in the winter.	- - The population of this union has been altogether peaceable, and there never has been any manner of disposition to resist the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.	- - We should say that the poor of this union are, generally speaking, by no means an immoral class of people; their besetting sin is drunkenness; and we are of opinion that if there were greater restrictions upon the beer and cider houses, a most beneficial change might be effected in such respect.	- - The aged, the impotent and the helpless are now far better provided for in every way than before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act.	- - The average rent of labourers' cottages within this union is about 5*l.* per annum, a sum which has not varied since the formation of the union, and which, in the judgment of our board, is considerably higher than it ought to be.
- - As to agricultural labourers, much the same; as to manufacturers, rather better; but the board considers the clothing trade to have been for some years in a fluctuating state, and that it is so now.	Neither - -	Much the same - -	None - -	- - Our poor were always pretty well employed, and are so now; we consider their moral conduct and habits in general to be much as they have been, except as before shown as to some who were idle.	- - None that we are aware of.	- - Rent varies very much in different parishes, from 3*l.* to 6*l.*; in many instances it is higher than it should be; it is much as it was before the union.
- - The prospect of employment, from a variety of causes, is much better.	- - Not likely to increase or decrease.	Nearly the same -	- - No riot and no act of incendiarism whatever.	- - Bastardy very considerably decreased, and their general habits and morals improved.	- - Greater care taken of them, and their condition materially improved.	- - Rent from 2*l.* 15*s.* to 5*l.*; this board cannot express an opinion as to whether the rent is too high or not.
- - The prospect of employment for labourers is not so great as it was last year, but greater than it was three years since.	- - The board see no prospect of any alteration.	- - The board have reason to consider that some provisions consumed by the poor will be dearer and some cheaper than 12 months since; but, on an average, about the same.	- - There has been no disposition to riot, nor any act of incendiarism with which this board are acquainted.	- - There has been very little perceptible improvement, and that improvement, which this board had reason to expect, has been counteracted in a great degree by the immoral habits of the navigators on the railroad.	- - Their condition generally has been very greatly improved.	- - The annual rent of cottages, with a small garden attached, varies from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 6*l.*, which is about a fair amount; and there appears to have been no alteration since the formation of the union.
As good, if not better -	- - No alteration expected.	- - On the whole, not dearer than the last.	- - No disposition to riot has been shown; shortly before, and when the formation of the union was contemplated, several incendiary fires took place; but we have reason to think that subsequent fires originated in the formation of the union.	- - An alteration for the better is evident.	- - They are better relieved, and have more comforts.	- - In 36 parishes, about 2*l.* per annum, and in the towns of Bruton, Castle Cary and Wincanton, about double that amount; this is not higher than it ought to be, except in the towns already mentioned, and no considerable alteration has taken place since the formation of the union.
Quite as good - -	Nearly the same -	- - Less; meat and potatoes being cheaper; cannot form any estimate of the difference.	None, and no fires	Much improved -	- - More contented, being more certain of their allowance.	- - About 3*l.* 5*s.* with small garden; no reduction has taken place; the rent is deemed too high.
- - Quite as good as last winter.	- - We consider that wages will probably continue to average rather higher than last winter.	- - About the same, upon the whole, as last winter.	- - No disposition whatever has been shown either to riot or commit acts of incendiarism.	- - We think that a considerable improvement has taken place, both in the morals and general habits of the labouring classes.	- - We think that their condition is equal, if not better, than before the formation of the union.	- - The average rent of the cottages of agricultural labourers is 3*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

Appendix, No. 2.—*continued.*

QUESTIONS proposed by Mr. *Weale*, on the 21st of October 1837, to the several BOARDS of GUARDIANS in the ABLE-BODIED MALE PAUPERS, are not in

NAMES of UNIONS.	1. Has there been any Rise or Diminution in the Rate of Wages since your last Return to me in April last?	2. Has Task-work been more given since that Period?	3. Has Task-work been more given since the formation of your Union?	4. Is there, since the formation of your Union, a greater disposition on the part of the Employers of Labour to give Employment to Labourers and to their Wives and Children; and have the Labourers evinced a greater or less desire to obtain and keep independent Employment?	5. According to the judgment of your Board, is the Prospect of Employment for the ensuing Winter as good as it was in the last, or in the three last preceding Winters?	6. Is there a Prospect of an Advance or Diminution of Wages during the ensuing Winter, as compared with the Statement before referred to?
SOMERSET:						
AXBRIDGE	None	No	No	In some parishes more labour has been offered, and in others not. Much greater desire on the part of the labourers to obtain and keep independent employment.	Yes	No diminution or advance expected.
BEDMINSTER	Generally not	No	No	Much the same	Much better, in consequence of the railroads.	Generally less wages are given in the winter than the summer.
BRIDGEWATER	No rise or diminution.	No	No	Yes	Generally good	Wages expected to be the same.
CHARD	Much the same with regard to the agricultural labourers, but in consequence of the depression of the lace trade in Chard, a considerable diminution of wages has taken place.	About the same	Yes, to some extent.	There is a greater disposition on both sides to give and obtain employment.	Better, with the exception of the Chard manufacturing labourers.	Prospect about the same, with the exception of the Chard manufacturing labourers.
CLUTTON	None	We know of no difference.	We know of no difference.	During the past year but three or four instances have occurred of able-bodied labourers asking for parish relief; at present there is not one such instance. We think the labourers more disposed to seek independent employment, and the employers (in a less degree) inclined to give it.	Yes	No
DULVERTON	No alteration has taken place.	No	A little on the increase.	There never has been any reluctance on the part of the employers to give employment to labourers and their families; but there is now a greater disposition on the part of the labourers to obtain independent employment.	The prospect of employment for the winter is quite as favourable, if not better, than for the last or three preceding winters.	It is presumed the rate of wages will continue about the same.
FROME	No alteration	No alteration	No	The employers have shown a greater disposition to employ the labourers and their wives and children, and the labourers have shown a greater desire to keep independent employment.	The prospect for agricultural employment is much the same as the last and three preceding winters. The prospect of manufacturing employment is not so good as the last, but much the same as the three preceding winters.	Much the same
LANGPORT	The board of guardians is not aware that there has been any rise or diminution in the rate of wages since April last.	Task-work has not been more given since that period.	The board does not believe that task-work has been more given since the formation of this union than it was before.	The board considers that, since the formation of the union, the employers of the labourers have shown a greater disposition to give employment to the labourers and their wives and families, and the labourers appear more to desire and keep independent employment.	The board considers that there is quite as good, if not a better, prospect of employment for the ensuing winter than there was in either of the four preceding winters.	The board does not consider that there is any likelihood of a variation of the rate of wages during the ensuing winter as compared with the statement before referred to.
SHEPTON MALLET	No change	It has	It has	There is more disposition to give employment, and a greater desire on the part of the labourers to obtain and keep it.	It is	No
TAUNTON	None	About the same	No	Nearly the same	Rather better	Wages will probably remain the same.

Appendix, No. 2.—*continued.*

his District, where the Rules and Orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, prohibiting Out-door Relief to operation, and the Answers to such Queries.

7. Is the Price of Provisions for the ensuing Winter expected to be greater or less than during the last; and can you form any judgment of the Amount of Difference?	8. Have the Labouring Classes, since the formation of your Union, shown any disposition to Riot, and have any acts of Incendiarism been committed; and if so, can such acts be attributed to the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act?	9. Have you observed any, and what, Change in the Morals and general Habits of the Labouring Classes?	10. What Effect has the Change of System produced on the Aged, the Impotent, and the Helpless?	11. What is about the Average Annual Rent of the Cottages of the Agricultural Labourers; and, in the judgment of your Board, is it higher than it ought to be; and has it varied since the formation of your Union?
Certainly not higher -	No - - - - -	Better conducted, generally	- - They are manifestly improved by the change.	Rent from 3*l.* to 5*l.*
- - Nearly the same, except potatoes, which will be lower.	No - - - - -	- - Much worse since the establishment of beer-houses.	- - Generally, their condition is somewhat improved.	- - The board have very little data to go upon, but judge it to be about 5*l.* No variation.
- - The price of provisions is expected, upon an average of the different kinds, to be nearly the same as last year.	- - There has been no disposition to riot shown, nor have any acts of incendiarism been committed in this union.	- - There has been a decided change for the better.	- - The effect is various in the different parishes of the union.	- - The average annual rent is about 4*l.* The rent, in the judgment of the board, is higher than it ought to be; it has not varied since the formation of the union.
- - Price expected to be about the same.	- - No riots or acts of incendiarism or disturbance of any kind connected with the Poor Law Amendment Act or otherwise.	- - Habits of industry increased, and morals in consequence gradually improving.	- - Their conditions are much improved.	- - The average annual rent of the cottages in the agricultural parishes is about 1*s.* per week; in the towns about one-half higher, which is a fair rent in the parishes, but too high in the towns; and no variation has taken place.
Rather greater - -	- - No disposition to riot. One hay-mow at Farrington Gurney has been burnt, supposed wilfully, and in consequence of the enforcement of the rating of labourers' cottages.	- - Where the field garden system is established, the morals and general habits of the labouring classes are much improved. In some parishes, where it is in operation, no crimes whatever have been committed for several years by the occupiers.	- - The workhouse system is not in operation in this union, but the general effect of the Poor Law has been beneficial to the aged, the impotent and the helpless, who have generally been put on a higher scale of allowance; and they appear very contented.	- - With gardens from 4*l.* to 6*l.*; without gardens, or very small ones, from 3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* The operation of the enforcement of assessments on labourers' cottages is hard on the occupiers, as the rents have but rarely been proportionately diminished by the landlords. In some of the parishes the rents are higher than they ought to be; in others reasonable. The rents have varied but little, if any, since the formation of the union.
- - It is supposed that the price will be rather less than during the previous winter.	- - No disturbance has taken place within the union.	- - The labouring classes are, if any thing, more civil and respectful in their general behaviour.	- - They are placed in a better condition than they were previous to the formation of the union.	- - The average rent is about 1*s.* per week. It has not varied since the formation of the union.
- - There will be no material difference in the price of provisions.	None whatever - -	- - An improvement has certainly taken place in the morals and general habits of the labouring classes of this union since its formation.	- - Their condition is improved, and they are more contented.	- - The average rent of the cottages of the agricultural labourers is about 3*l.*, and it has not varied since the formation of the union.
- - The board is of opinion, that from the great quantity of potatoes, which forms the principal food for the lower classes, provisions will be cheaper during the ensuing winter, but it is unable to state to what amount.	- - The labouring classes have not shown any disposition to riot, nor have any acts of incendiarism been committed.	- - The labouring classes appear to be more industrious and provident, and evince a greater wish to please than heretofore; and the board is of opinion that there is a great diminution in the number of bastards; of course showing a considerable improvement in the morals and habits.	- - They are better off, and more contented generally, and are much more attended to in sickness.	- - The average annual rent of the cottages of agricultural labourers is from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.*, and the board considers that it is higher than it ought to be; and the board does not consider that any variation has taken place since the formation of the union.
Much the same - -	No rioting and no fires -	- - More civil, more industrious and more inclined to work.	Much bettered their condition -	- - From 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*, and rents are reduced.
- - Potatoes will be probably lower; wheat much the same.	No - - - - -	None - - - -	They are better off - - -	- - Average rent of cottage, with small garden, 1*s.* per week; it has not varied since the formation of the union.

(*continued.*)

Appendix, No. 2.—Questions proposed by Mr. *Weale* to the Boards of

NAMES of UNIONS.	1. Has there been any Rise or Diminution in the Rate of Wages since your last Return to me in April last?	2. Has Task-work been more given since that Period?	3. Has Task-work been more given since the formation of your Union?	4. Is there, since the formation of your Union, a greater disposition on the part of the Employers of Labour to give Employment to Labourers and to their Wives and Children; and have the Labourers evinced a greater or less desire to obtain and keep independent Employment?	5. According to the judgment of your Board, is the Prospect of Employment for the ensuing Winter as good as it was in the last, or in the three last preceding Winters?	6. Is there a Prospect of an Advance or Diminution of Wages during the ensuing Winter, as compared with the Statement before referred to?
SOMERSET—*continued.*						
Wellington	No rise or fall	No	No	Agricultural labourers get employment more readily than they did two years ago, which this board attribute to the fact, that agricultural produce now sells much better than it did then. This board are not aware, from actual observation, of any greater desire on the part of labourers to obtain independent employment, but they are convinced that the operation of the New Poor Law will tend to that result.	Quite as good	Wages will probably remain as they now are; at any rate they will not be lower.
Wells	No change	Much the same.	No difference	No difference in the first. The labourers have evinced a greater desire.	Quite so, if not better	Neither
Williton	None	No	No	No	Yes	There is no prospect of any alteration.
Yeovil	Wages are much the same.	We are not aware of any increase of task-work.	Much the same as before.	We do not think employers of labour have shown a greater inclination than before to give employment; but labourers are decidedly more desirous of keeping their places.	Full as good a prospect of employment for the agricultural population; not more, perhaps less, as to the manufacturing, of which the population of this union greatly consists.	No prospect of either
WORCESTER:						
Bromsgrove	None	No	It has not	There appears to be more employment given to agricultural labourers, and, taking into consideration the present depressed state of trade, there is a great inclination in the masters to keep their work-people in employment, and there is already a greater desire on the part of the labourers to keep independent employment.	There is no reason to suppose but that there is the same prospect of employment in the ensuing winter for agricultural labour, but the prospect for those employed in trade is very unfavourable, and much worse than in the three last preceding winters.	The wages of agricultural labour are likely to remain the same as the preceding winter, but although the masters in trade may not be expected to reduce wages, they have already virtually done so by limiting the days of work in weekly employment, and reducing the amount of their weekly earnings when employed at piece-work, and there is no prospect of the latter being improved in the ensuing winter.
Droitwich	There has been no change.	There has been no change.	No	The farmers in this country have always been so ready to provide employment, that in this respect we observe no difference; but several of the guardians of this board, who are large occupiers of land, are of opinion, that on the part of the labourers there is a greater anxiety than formerly to continue in the service of their employers.	We think it quite as good	Likely to remain the same.
Evesham	The rate of wages is about the same as when the return was made from this board last April.	It cannot be said that more task-work has been given since April last; but it is, and has been for many years, the practice to resort to task-work as much as possible.	Since the formation of the union no increase of task-work is apparent.	There has been full employment for labourers and their families for the last three years, and latterly a greater desire to obtain and keep independent employment.	The prospect of employment is much better than it was for the last three winters.	There is a prospect that wages will remain stationary, as compared with the statement from this board in April last, excepting that it appears the average rate of wages then given for women and girls employed in gloving, &c. was too high by about 15 per cent.
Kidderminster	There has been neither rise or diminution.	It has not	No	On the part of the employers the disposition is the same, but the labourers have certainly evinced greater desire to obtain and keep independent employment.	In the agricultural district in this union the prospect of employment is the same, but in the manufacturing district, owing to the badness of trade, it is not so good, nor likely to be.	No
Martley	No	Much the same	Much the same	There is a greater disposition in the employer to give labour, and in the employed to seek it.	Better than in the last, and quite equal to any preceding year.	The wages will remain much the same, but considering the price of food, the poor will be much better off.
Worcester	The wages are as near as possible the same as at the period mentioned.	This union is not agricultural, but the greater part of the work is by task, and has been about the same since last April.	No	The masters in this district have always been anxious to employ as many persons as they could, men, women and children, as, from the nature of the works carried on, employment can be found for all ages at seasons of the year when the demand is good; and it is the opinion of the board that applications from able-bodied persons have decreased.	This board is of opinion that the prospect of employment is not so good, principally from the depressed state of the glove trade, the staple employment of this union.	Certainly no advance

Guardians in his District, with the Answers—*continued*.

7. Is the Price of Provisions for the ensuing Winter expected to be greater or less than during the last; and can you form any judgment of the Amount of Difference?	8. Have the Labouring Classes, since the formation of your Union, shown any disposition to Riot, and have any acts of Incendiarism been committed; and if so, can such acts be attributed to the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act?	9. Have you observed any, and what, Change in the Morals and general Habits of the Labouring Classes?	10. What Effect has the Change of System produced on the Aged, the Impotent, and the Helpless?	11. What is about the Average Annual Rent of the Cottages of the Agricultural Labourers; and, in the judgment of your Board, is it higher than it ought to be; and has it varied since the formation of your Union?
- - Provisions generally will be quite as high as they were last year. Bread will be higher, potatoes rather lower.	- - No such acts have taken place, nor has there been any tendency to such.	- - We fear we cannot say that there is any amendment.	- - We think they are better provided for than under the administration of the old laws.	- - Cottages of agricultural labourers let for from 2*l.* to 3*l.* per annum, and in some parishes still higher. Rents have not varied since the formation of this union, and this board think rents must always be regulated by the supply and demand.
- - Much the same; in general, potatoes cheaper.	No - - - - -	- - A slight improvement perceivable; less bastardy.	- - A greater amount of relief has been given, and more uniformly distributed.	- - From 4*l.* to 5*l.* Rents considered to be too high.
- - The price of provisions for the ensuing winter is expected to be about the same, certainly not dearer than during the last.	- No such acts have been committed, or disposition shown.	- - No change has been observed; their morals and general habits are certainly not worse.	- - They are more contented, and better off.	- - The average annual rent is 2*l.* It has not varied since the formation of the union, and is not, in the judgment of the Board, higher than it ought to be.
- - Much the same; if any difference, a small increase.	- - No disposition whatever to riot, with the single exception of a strong feeling respecting pauper funerals about 16 months since, especially in the parish of Montacute; no incendiarism.	- - We have observed no material change either for better or worse.	- - A beneficial effect, as their allowances have been generally increased, and they appear more contented and comfortable.	- - Average rent about 3*l.* 10*s.*, which we consider higher than it ought to be in reference to wages. We are not aware of its having varied since the formation of the union.
- - Provisions upon the average are likely to remain about the same as last winter.	- - No disposition to riot has been shown, nor has any act of incendiarism been committed, neither has any discontent been shown by the working classes against the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.	- - No change has been observed in the morals or habits of the labouring classes.	- - The change of system has given general satisfaction to these classes of the poor, and they are much better provided for than under the old system.	- - About 4*l.*, and, in the opinion of the board, is not higher than it ought to be; it has not varied since the formation of the union.
- - We expect the price of provisions to be somewhat lower than last winter, but are not prepared to state exactly in what proportion.	No riot; no incendiarism -	- - The union has not been formed long enough for us to judge.	- - Our workhouse is not finished, but we think that at present the comfort of the aged is increased.	- - We do not consider the average of cottage rents with very small gardens to be less than 4*l.* 10*s.*; and we are unanimously and strongly of opinion, that the rents are too high. No change has taken place in their amount since the formation of the union.
- - The average cost of provisions is expected to be the same as during last winter; rather lower, if any difference.	- - No disposition to riot has been evinced by the labouring population; one case of supposed incendiarism has occurred, but cannot be attributed to the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act.	- - A greater desire to obtain and keep independent employment has been observed, together with more provident habits.	- - The circumstances of the aged, the impotent and the helpless have been promptly inquired into, and their necessities relieved, either by the board or through its interference, by the relatives, who have shown a greater disposition to provide for such.	- - Rents average from 2*l.* to 3*l.* in the country, from 4*l.* to 5*l.* in the town. They do not appear to be too high, and have not varied since the formation of the union.
- - They are expected to be less, but not to any great amount. Judging from the contracts entered into in the various quarters up to Christmas, the present quarterly contract is less than the former ones, especially in bread, flour and potatoes.	- - No; nor have any acts of incendiarism taken place in the union.	- - From observation since the formation of the union, they are rather improving.	- - Both morally and physically, an improved effect, inasmuch as their wants are better attended to, and they are more grateful for it.	- - Of cottages with gardens (which is generally the case), the average annual rent is about 4*l.*, and, in the judgment of this board, they are not higher than they ought to be; nor has any variation taken place since the union.
Less by at least 25 per cent.	- - There was at first a tumultuous meeting, which peaceably dispersed, and since then there has been no disposition to riot, nor any act of incendiarism committed.	Much the same - -	- - They are at least as well off as they were before, if not better.	- - About 3*l.* 10*s.* per annum which we consider too high.
- - The price of provisions may be expected to be less than last winter by about 15 per cent.	- - The neighbourhood of this union has been perfectly tranquil.	- - There appears to be an improvement.	- - It appears the classes alluded to are more satisfied generally under the present system.	- - Not being an agricultural union, the board has no means of answering this question.

Appendix, No. 3.

[*See* Appendix, No. 1, to the 37th, 38th and 39th Reports, pp. 56 & 57.]

AMPTHILL UNION.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the INCOMES of FORTY-EIGHT LABOURERS of the Parish of *Westoning*, as shown by the Table of Mr. *Turner*, and subsequently by the Table of Mr. *Pearse* and Mr. *Marshall*; drawn up by Mr. *Marshall*.

NAMES of LABOURERS.	Total Incomes for the Year 1837, as stated by Mr. Turner.	Total Incomes for 1837, stated by Mr. Pearse and Mr. Marshall.	As compared with Mr. Turner's Statement for 1837, showing		REMARKS.
			Increase.	Decrease.	
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Aldridge, William	28 10 –	27 9 –	– – –	1 1 –	– – A single man, living with his parents to Michaelmas 1837. Mr. Turner states *three* in family during the year.
Bonner, Samuel	11 14 –	12 18 6	1 4 6	– . –	– – Only 18 weeks' earnings out of 52 can be ascertained; this man is stated to be three in family by Mr. Turner, instead of one.
Bonner, Jacob	35 6 –	40 15 –	5 9 –		
Bonner, Peter	18 9 6	32 7 1	13 17 7	– – –	A considerable portion of this man's time cannot be traced.
Bonner, William	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – Has become a small farmer, keeping cows, pigs, &c., and has task-work to go to when not employed at home.
Brinkler, James	18 2 –	19 15 8	1 13 8	– – –	– – Travels with a basket, deals in skins, rags, &c.; will not disclose his earnings.
Bunker, Thomas	7 16 –	10 8 –	2 12 –	– – –	– – Lives with his son, and has his board when at work in gardens, &c.
Carter, John	25 8 –	31 13 6	6 5 6	– – –	Has only four in family; Mr. Turner states five.
Chance, William	25 18 –	30 12 –	4 14 –	– – –	Lives with his father.
Chew, Joseph	19 4 –	21 16 –	2 12 –	– – –	– – Has worked at the railroad, and assists his father as a jobbing carpenter; his earnings cannot be traced. The family should have been stated two, instead of three, by Mr. Turner.
Cox, Benjamin	33 4 –	42 15 10	9 11 10	– – –	Only eight in family; Mr. Turner states nine.
Cox, John	13 13 –	22 8 –	8 15 –		
Eaton, John	13 15 –	19 8 10	5 13 10		
Eaton, Joseph	30 12 –	30 17 –	– 5 –		
Farr, John	16 18 –	21 18 –	5 – –		
Gazelee, William	13 – –	13 – –	– – –	– – –	– – An allowance of 5*s.* per week from the parish. Neither the man nor his wife are wholly unable to work.
Gazelee, Thomas	24 12 –	26 13 3	2 1 3		
Hack, John	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – Too weak in intellect to account for his income; lives with his mother and sister.
Hilyard, Henry	15 12 –	18 12 3	3 – 3		
Jackson, George	29 6 –	61 3 4	31 17 4	– – –	– – Left a place at 9*s.* a week to go begging; his income from that source cannot be ascertained.
King, John	23 17 –	29 5 6	5 8 6		
Kingham, Daniel	26 19 6	24 9 –	– – –	2 10 6	This man's statement of earnings is very unsatisfactory.
Kingham, John	28 – –	30 3 6	2 3 6		
Knight, John	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – No account can be obtained of this man's earnings or income; travels with a basket, &c. &c.
Lingar, Joseph, sen.	20 4 –	30 19 –	10 15 –	– – –	– – Works much out of the parish; his earnings cannot be correctly ascertained.
Lingar, Joseph, jun.	8 8 –	13 – –	4 12 –		
Lingar, James	9 2 –	19 6 4	10 4 4		
Lingar, William	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – Resides out of the parish, travels with a basket, &c.; no account of his income can be obtained.
Lowens, William	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – Refuses to account for his earnings; his wife is mistress of a Sunday school, and keeps a day school.
Marlow, William	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	Refuses to give any information respecting his income.
Nield, James	17 12 –	24 11 9	6 19 9	– – –	– – A hay-binder, and generally handy; supposed to earn considerably beyond the sum here stated; has but three in family, Mr. Turner states five.
Odell, John	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – Belongs to the Woburn Union, from which he receives 6*s.* a week; keeps dogs and ferrets, is a rat and mole-catcher.
Odell, Robert	21 19 –	28 3 6	6 4 6		
Odell, Thomas	28 10 –	27 18 9	– – –	– 11 3	
Odell, William	27 12 –	42 2 4	14 10 4		
Pedder, William	33 4 –	27 9 6	– – –	5 14 6	– – Refuses to give any information, and states he has not given it to any person; his earnings are only ascertained in part.
Phillips, William, sen.					
Phillips, William, jun.	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	Refuse to give any information respecting their incomes.
Phillips, Joseph					
Short, John	28 10 –	25 6 10	– – –	3 3 2	– – This man is stated by Mr. Turner two in family during 1837; he was single until 4th December last.
Short, William	31 18 –	44 15 1	12 17 1		
Short, Richard	32 11 –	44 5 6	11 14 6	– – –	Has four in family, Mr. Turner states five.
Short, Jessee	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – Lives with his parents; is a straw-plaiter, and has worked at the railroad; cannot ascertain his income.
Sherwood, Job	38 8 –	47 15 –	9 7 –	– – –	Has seven in family; Mr. Turner states eight.
Somerfield, John	29 6 –	31 3 –	1 17 –		
Sharman, James	30 8 8	42 1 –	11 11 5		
Walton, James	25 8 –	30 2 –	4 14 –		
Wilstead, John	26 16 –	34 17 8	8 1 8		
TOTALS £.	869 12 8	1,082 5 7	225 13 4	13 – 5	

Appendix, No. 4.

[*See* Appendix, No. 2, to the 37th, 38th and 39th Reports, pp. 58 & 59.]

AMPTHILL UNION.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the INCOMES of THIRTY LABOURERS of the Parish of *Westoning*, as shown by the Tables of Mr. *Turner*, and subsequently by the Tables of Mr. *Pearse* and Mr. *Marshall*; drawn up by Mr. *Marshall*.

NAMES of LABOURERS.	Total Incomes for the Year 1837, as stated by Mr. Turner.	Total Incomes for 1837, stated by Mr. Pearse and Mr. Marshall.	As compared with Mr. Turner's Statement for 1837, showing Increase.	As compared with Mr. Turner's Statement for 1837, showing Decrease.	REMARKS.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Armsden, Edward	35 16 –	37 18 9	2 2 9	– – –	– – Has eight in family, instead of nine, as stated by Mr. Turner; profits of pig and garden allotment not included.
Bass, John	25 18 –	28 5 –	2 7 –		
Bonner, Crawley	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – Refuses to give information of the earnings of his wife, who is post-woman, errand woman, and keeps a shop.
Brinkler, Thomas	43 12 –	61 9 7	17 17 7	– – –	Has eight in family, instead of nine, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Bunker, Joseph	33 4 –	34 12 –	1 8 –	– – –	Has six in family, instead of seven, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Bunker, William	35 16 –	44 5 4	8 9 4	– – –	Has half an acre of land rent free, for shaving the owner.
Bunyan, Thomas	33 4 –	43 14 –	10 10 –		
Bunyan, William	30 12 –	30 9 6	– – –	– 2 6	Has six in family, instead of seven, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Carr, John	31 2 –	34 3 6	3 1 6		
Chance, Peter	37 2 –	31 7 6	– – –	5 14 6	Has five in family, instead of six, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Cook, John	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – Refuses to account for the earnings of his wife; states that he has not been examined by any person.
Dale, John, *alias* Martindale, John.	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – This man is the son of a farmer, has a right of common, keeps cows and pigs, and is employed by his father; earnings or income not ascertained.
Eaton, Edward	31 16 –	28 18 –	– – –	2 18 –	Has three in family, instead of four, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Eyres, Henry	28 – –	38 15 6	10 15 6	– – –	– – His son, *stated as part of family*, is an in-door apprentice at Ampthill.
Gazellee, William	35 13 –	40 14 10	5 1 10	– – –	Has five in family, instead of six, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Gazellee, Jesse	13 – –	13 – –	– – –	– – –	A lad living with his parents.
Gurney, Joseph	28 – –	31 10 –	3 10 –	– – –	– – Married at Christmas 1837, consequently only one in family, instead of two, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Gurney, Richard	28 10 –	32 – 6	3 10 6		
Gurney, William	31 2 –	32 16 4	1 14 4		
Hyde, Henry	25 18 –	27 3 –	1 5 –		
Hyde, William	35 2 –	44 14 4	9 12 4	– – –	Has six in family, instead of nine, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Harris, Thomas	21 16 –	20 4 –	– – –	1 12 –	
Hilyard, Robert	51 12 –	43 12 8	– – –	7 19 4	– – This man has six in family, instead of nine, as stated by Mr. Turner.
King, George	36 8 –	51 11 8	15 3 8	– – –	– – This man is allowed milk and beer constantly, and plaits straw on his own account whilst tending the sheep, *not included*; has six in family, instead of eight, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Pedder, Richard	25 18 –	28 15 –	2 17 –		
Sear, William	37 2 –	46 9 1	9 7 1		
Sharp, Thomas	27 10 –	29 5 –	1 15 –	– – –	Two in family, instead of four, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Sherwood, Thomas	20 4 –	22 16 –	2 12 –	– – –	– – Married at Michaelmas 1837; consequently there was only one in family for nine months, instead of two, as stated by Mr. Turner.
Washington, Richard	28 10 –	35 15 –	7 5 –		
Yates, Thomas	35 16 –	37 13 1	1 17 1		
TOTALS £.	848 3 –	951 19 2	122 2 6	18 6 4	

Appendix, No. 5.

[*See* 37th, 38th and 39th Reports, p. 35, Question 12799.]

Sir, Manchester, 26 June 1838.

I BEG to forward you a copy of the return of migration made to me by the clerk of the Woburn Union.

The only family therein named that migrated through my agency was that of Samuel Chance. I have written to the gentleman with whom I placed him, to ascertain the circumstances under which he returned to his parish.

I shall be much obliged by your forwarding me a copy of the return I made to the Committee.

I have, &c.

J. N. Fazakerley, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

Rich[d] M. Muggeridge.

MIGRATION from WOBURN UNION, *Bedfordshire.*

Name of Family or Individual who migrated.	Number of Children in Family.	From what Parish.	Whether in receipt of Parochial Relief before Migration, and from what period.	Average Weekly Income previous to migration.	REMARKS.
				s. *d.*	
Samuel Chance and wife.	5	Harlington -	From 1834 -	12 6	Returned Oct. 1837.
William Underwood and wife.	6	Poddington -	- ditto -	14 –	- ditto Mar. 1837.
Anne Odell - -	6	Ridgmont -	- ditto -	2 –	- ditto Sept. 1836.
Thomas Waters -	- -	Harlington -	- ditto -	1 –	- ditto Mar. 1837.
James Coles -	- -	Poddington -	- ditto -	1 –	
John Harris -	- -	- ditto - -	- ditto -	1 –	
Joseph Sturmant -	- -	- ditto - -	- ditto -	1 –	
Thomas Hart -	- -	- ditto - -	- ditto -	2 –	
Mary Whitbread -	4	Woburn - -	- ditto -	2 6	

(signed) *W[m] Cole Aspley*, Woburn, Beds.

Manchester, 26 June 1838.

(A true copy) *Rich[d] M. Muggeridge.*

FORTY-SEVENTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
22 *June* 1838.

[*Price* 7 ½ *d.*]

526.

437

FORTY-EIGHTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
11 *July* 1838.

[*Price* 9*d.*]

579.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, THAT the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members :

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, THAT power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

THE REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. iii
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - - p. 1
APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 43

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House;—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

11 *July* 1838.

WITNESSES.

James Rawson, Esq. - - - - - - - - p. 1
Mr. *John Swain* - - - - - - - - p. 25
Richard Hall, Esq. - - - - - - - - p. 31
Dr. *Kay* - - - - - - - - - - p. 42

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 26° *die Junii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Fielden.	Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Freshfield.	Mr. Lister.
Mr. Hodges.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Langdale.	Mr. Walker.

MR. FAZAKERLEY, IN THE CHAIR.

James Rawson, Esq., called in; and Examined.

James Rawson, Esq.

26 June 1838.

16402. *Chairman.*] HAVE you seen a petition to Parliament, upon the subject of the administration of the poor laws, from Leicester?—Yes, I have.

16403. When was that presented?—A few weeks ago.

16404. You have a copy of that petition in your hand?—I have.

[*The Petition was read.*—Vide *Appendix*, p. 43.]

16405. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is it signed by you?—Yes.

16406. This petition was presented in consequence of the evidence which was read at Leicester of Mr. Gulson and Mr. Hall?—Yes.

16407. Are you aware that, in the evidence referred to, it is supposed that paupers requiring parochial relief, and obliged to enter the workhouse, are not compelled to sell or otherwise dispose of their furniture, implements of trade or any thing useful to them, before they can avail themselves of the offer of relief in the workhouse; are you aware that that is the practice?—I conceive that to be utterly impossible to be the practice; my experience as an overseer has always told me, that where a person is at all likely to be under the necessity of applying to the parish for relief, he is endeavouring to put it off as long as he can, and he first sells his clothes; when those are gone, his household furniture follows, as a matter of course; and if he can succeed in doing that privately, he goes on till some person very likely informs his landlord; in that case the landlord immediately puts in a bailiff, and the goods are all seized long before the man can go into the workhouse.

16408. Do you speak of that as a matter of course or as a matter which has come within your experience?—I was overseer for four years of a parish which comprises full half the town of Leicester, and I never knew an instance in my life of a man not selling his furniture before he went into the workhouse.

16409. Have you known instances of paupers being obliged to sell their furniture before they went into the workhouse?—The overseers do not compel them, but their necessities compel them; it is always so before they go in.

16410. And you have never known paupers go into the workhouse, having furniture retained for their use when they shall come out of it?—Never.

16411. Have you known an instance of a pauper retaining his cottage, so that when he came out he might return to it?—Never; I have known instances where the landlord would not allow a pauper to enter his house again without the parish would guarantee the payment of his rent; he would not trust the pauper after having been in the workhouse.

16412. Is it in your experience that the workhouse has been accepted as a last resource, and after all other means have failed?—Certainly.

16413. In Leicester what is the principal occupation of the working classes?—It is connected with the hosiery business, stocking-makers and combers, and parties connected with factories.

16414. Frame-work knitters?—Yes.

 16415. Are

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16415. Are the frames generally the property of the operative or the employer?—The hosier.

16416. Do they charge a rent for those frames?—Yes.

16417. Have you any other facts to state, in connexion with the evidence to which you have been referred, as to the paupers retaining their furniture, and retaining their houses, when they go into the workhouse?—I do not know that I can add more than I have said; I think the thing perfectly impossible; I never knew such an instance in my life, as their retaining their furniture.

16418. To what extent did the practice of allowance, in aid of wages, to frame-work knitters, prevail under the old system?—Individually, I never knew it prevail at all.

16419. Is it the custom generally, or at all, to demand the whole weekly amount of frame rent for frames not wholly employed, or what deduction is made?—When we have found it necessary to reduce the amount of frame-work I have always reduced the amount of frame-rent; I do not know that I ever took full rent for a frame when a man was not fully employed; the principle is always to reduce the rent in proportion to the amount of work given out.

16420. What is the usual amount of rent?—Some are 1*s.* a week, some 1*s.* 6*d.*, some as high as 2*s.* 6*d.*; it depends upon what the frame is.

16421. Are the workmen employed by the manufacturers generally, in the town of Leicester, or in the villages round about?—Throughout the whole county.

16422. Does a large portion of the resident population of those villages consist of frame-work knitters?—I should say that it does.

16423. Are they entirely dependent upon the manufacturers for employment?—Yes.

16424. Are the parishes so situated subject to heavy burthens, occasioned by the occupation of the frame-work knitters, whilst the rate is levied almost exclusively upon the land?—The rate is levied upon the property in the parish, of course, which must be chiefly upon the land.

16425. Take Great Wigston, for instance, there it is principally levied upon the land?—Yes, there is no other property upon which it is levied, except the house property.

16426. Have the guardians and rate-payers of such parishes any means of employing the labourers, or of intimate acquaintance with their individual characters, habits or condition?—The parish, some years ago, attempted to employ them, and set them to work on their own account, and accumulated large quantities of goods, but that was found very injurious to trade, inasmuch as it filled the market with goods when they were not wanted, and thereby had the effect of reducing the price of wages very seriously, that it was abandoned.

16427. Under the circumstances you have described, do you consider it a prudent course to have formed Leicester into a separate Union without including the neighbouring parishes?—I can hardly answer that; I do not know what difference would have been made.

16428. *Chairman.*] Be so good as to take the second report of the Poor Law Commissioners into your hand, and state of what parishes the Union of Leicester consists?—The Leicester Union consists of All Saints parish, St. Leonard's parish, St. Margaret's parish, St. Martin's parish, St. Mary's, the Newarke, St. Nicholas and the Castle View.

16429. What is the total population?—Thirty-nine thousand one hundred and thirty-five.

16430. What is the number of guardians?—Thirty-five.

16431. Are those parishes altogether within the town and borough of Leicester, or are some of them country parishes?—They are all within the liberties of the town.

16432. Are they filled by what may be called a town population, or are any of them country parishes?—The whole of that part contributes to the town rate.

16433. Then it may be fairly included within the borough of Leicester?—Yes.

16434. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You have stated that no other circumstance occurs to you with reference to the evidence of Mr. Gulson?—Yes.

16435. Have you read the evidence of Mr. Hall, given on the 22d of February?—I have.

16436. It is stated by Mr. Hall that the proceedings adopted by the Commissioners are calculated to meet the temporary difficulties in reference to the paupers

in

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in the Hinckley Union, residing in Leicester, what is your opinion upon that subject?—There had been an arrangement come to between the town of Leicester and the different parishes of the Hinckley Union before that; there was a very large number of Hinckley parishioners living in Leicester, and therefore it was found very inconvenient that they should be sent back to Hinckley, and the Hinckley guardians consented that they should relieve them as they did their own poor, and they would be answerable for the expense which they were; they were going on upon that principle.

16437. You mean that the difficulties had been previously met?—It was stopped by Mr. Stevens writing a letter to the guardians of Hinckley.

16438. But had those difficulties been met and surmounted by previous arrangements?—Certainly.

16439. And that those arrangements were interrupted by the interference of Mr. Stevens?—Yes.

16440. Will you state what that interference was?—This is a copy of the letter of Mr. Stevens.

16441. Will you read that letter?—This is addressed to the clerk of the guardians:—"Hinckley, May the 9th 1837, Sir, I have been prevented from answering your letter of the 5th instant till to-day. I am very sorry to hear how far your board has swerved from right principles of Poor Law administration. The course they have adopted is entirely illegal, and cannot be sanctioned on any account. Nothing can justify the guardians in administering relief to able applicants, who are non-residents, it is quite contrary to law, and the auditor, if he does his duty, will be obliged to disallow every item so given which has been entered in the relieving officer's accounts. There is no circumstance which can justify the guardians in relieving any able-bodied person without requiring from him a full portion of labour in return for the relief afforded. No false notion of economy can be allowed as any excuse for such a total departure from sound principles as you have described. The guardians must not take upon themselves the duties of legislation. If the pressure is too great for the present workhouse accommodation, out-relief to able males may be allowable, but then, only to paupers resident within the union, and only in return for labour performed. The method which I recommended in my last letter is the best that can be adopted—affording relief daily in provisions from the workhouse, in return for work performed daily at the workhouse. At Stoke-upon-Trent, out of the 30,000 persons thrown out of employment in the winter, only 6,000 had any claim upon the trades-union, so that 24,000 were left with the parish as their only resource, and yet of these only 103 cases received the relief which was offered What was possible at Stoke is equally practicable at Hinckley, and I trust that you will at once inform me that the necessary steps have been taken to provide sufficient labour for the able-bodied paupers whom the guardians may deem it right to relieve. I have the honour to be your obedient servant,—*Tho. Stevens*, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner."

"The clerk to the guardians, Hinckley."

16442. Was the course recommended by Mr. Stevens found expedient or not?—It was put into operation; a very large expense was incurred by the Leicester authorities in taking out orders of removal before the magistrates, and numbers of the paupers were directed to go over to Hinckley; a large number of them went, and the parish of Hinckley became quite alarmed at having such a large number sent to them which they could not provide for, and they were compelled, in consequence of the fear that was entertained that some mischief might result to them, to resort to the previous method of relief.

16443. Before they resorted to that, had the parishes been put to great expense in obtaining orders of removal?—The parish of St. Margaret spent 90*l.* in fees to the officers for orders of removal.

16444. When you say to the officers, do you mean the town-clerk?—Yes.

16445. Then you say it became necessary to abandon the course recommended by Mr. Stevens?—Yes, and to resort to the old practice.

16446. Was that upon deliberation by the guardians as their own act, from a strong sense of the necessity of altering the system?—It was an understanding found quite necessary to be come to between the Hinckley people and the Leicester.

16447. They then returned to the former system, from the experience of the impracticability of that recommended by Mr. Stevens?—Yes.

16448. Mr. *Hodges.*] Did that system give satisfaction?—Yes, it was con-

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tinued as long as it was necessary; in the course of time the men were employed, and then it became unnecessary.

16449. But during the time it was in practice it gave satisfaction?—Yes.

16450. To the rate-payers as well as to those out of employment?—I believe so; I heard no complaint.

16451. Mr. *Freshfield.*] In the evidence of Mr. Hall, question 2195, a parish is referred to as Letter (B.)?—I am not prepared to support that allegation of the petition; there is a person here who has made an inquiry, who is able to speak to that.

16452. You are not aware whether great benefit has or has not been derived in that parish from the adoption of the system referred to?—I believe the statement made by Mr. Hall is quite incorrect; I am quite satisfied of it; but the person who is here is personally able to speak to the facts.

16453. You have no knowledge of the facts yourself?—I have not; I know that inquiry has been made, and I have no doubt of the truth of it; but I have myself not made the inquiry.

16454. Have you endeavoured to apply the labour test at Leicester?—I know that it has been tried and given up.

16455. It was found to be expensive to the union?—It was found to be very injurious to the parishes; there were more applications for work in breaking stones than they could at all employ, and the stones could not be sold at a profit; indeed they could not be sold at all; there are hundreds of tons remaining unsold at Leicester.

16456. Then, according to your experience, the labour test was not a wise expedient to be adopted?—I think not.

16457. Is the result to which you come that there must be a workhouse test?—No; I think they are both very injurious.

16458. As you are adverse to the labour test, and also to the workhouse test, what course would you adopt?—I think the proper course is to ascertain the characters of the parties applying for relief, which may be easily done by applying to the employers; I consider it a harsh measure that a man, after having maintained a family for 20 or 30 years, should be obliged to break his establishment up and go into the workhouse for a little temporary assistance.

16459. What is the average rate of wages at Leicester?—It depends a good deal upon the aptitude of the man for work, and the work he is employed upon; I think the amount stated in the petition is quite as much as they are in the habit of earning, that is 9 *s.* a week.

16460. Is that the amount at the present time?—There has been no alteration made in the price of labour that I am aware of.

16461. What has been the average during the last five years?—I should say, much about the same; there was much less last year when trade was very bad; they had not all the time employed in labour; the price was not very much reduced; a little alteration was made in some sorts of labour, but not much reduced.

16462. Do you think it possible that a man can earn such an amount of wages as would enable him to lay by for any depression of trade or other difficulties to which he may be exposed?—That has been utterly impossible of late years.

16463. Can you devise any test as a test of extreme distress which would still put the individual in a worse situation than the independent labourer, so that he might not, by relief, be placed in a better situation than the independent labourer?—If a man has a bad character, and is not known to be an industrious man, I see no objection to sending him to the workhouse; my only objection is, that the industrious man who has kept his family all his life respectably should be treated in the same way as an idle man; I do not find any fault with the workhouse as a test to abandoned characters.

16464. But you say that there is no difficulty in determining whether he is an industrious character or not?—I think there is no test required; where a man has a good character, and has maintained that character for a great many years, I think that man is entitled to a little temporary relief, if that would keep him from destitution.

16465. You cannot suggest any out-door test that would place him in a worse situation than the independent labourer?—I cannot.

16466. Would you recommend that he should receive out-door relief?—I do not know how you could make a distinction there; if you gave one party that relief,

and

and gave it also to the other, I see no distinction there between the treatment of the industrious man and the abandoned man.

16467. You suggest no test but that of the workhouse?—I do not see how there can be any effective test but the workhouse for abandoned characters.

16468. Are we to understand that you apply that only to abandoned characters?—I apply it to them principally; because, if a man has shown a steady disposition and industrious and economical habits, and has kept his family from want, when he is put into a worse situation from circumstances over which he has no control, there can be no harm in giving him temporary relief, in order to keep him on his legs.

16469. Then you consider that to such a man out-door relief should be afforded?—I do; I think he is fairly entitled to it.

16470. Out-door relief very inferior to his usual wages?—Yes, limited below what he would earn from his daily work.

16471. Mr. *Liddell.*] And you think that discretion in the granting of out-door relief may be safely entrusted to the board of guardians?—Yes, I do, for they are all rate-payers; they would be anxious not to spend the rates unnecessarily; the money comes out of their own pockets.

16472. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Have you had any experience of the effect of the new Poor Law upon wages?—I think the operation of the new Poor Law has a tendency to reduce the rate of wages.

16473. Will you state in what way you consider the new Poor Law to operate to deteriorate wages?—I mean as it is now administered, where you give no relief except the workhouse. I think when a number of people are thrown out of employment, of the description I have stated, industrious, and steady men, rather than go into the workhouse and break up their establishments, they would offer their work for less, and that would naturally bring the other parties to the same level.

16474. Do you state this as the result of your own experience, or as a probable consequence of the operation of the new law?—It has scarcely been brought into operation with us at present; but I do know this: some of my hands, who have been refused every kind of relief unless they go into the workhouse, have offerred to me individually to work for less, rather than submit to it.

16475. Have you any information upon the subject of crime, whether it has increased or decreased in Leicester or its neighbourhood, since the introduction of the new Poor Law?—I do not know whether it may be fairly attributable to that cause; certainly the number of prosecutions at our assizes and sessions has very materially increased.

16476. What is the nature of the crimes which have increased?—Petty thefts, generally speaking.

16477. As to the moral character of your females, is there more or less of prostitution, according to your observation?—I should think a great deal more; it has had a very bad effect upon them indeed.

16478. *Chairman.*] What has had a bad effect?—I think the refusal of relief has had a very bad effect.

16479. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Do you know any instance of a female pauper who has been refused relief having become a prostitute?—No.

16480. Then you are unable to connect, except as a matter of opinion, the increase of prostitution with the refusal of relief?—Certainly, I am.

16481. Have you seen the increase of prostitution so immediately connected with the introduction of the new Poor Law as leads you to draw that inference?—The observation of almost every intelligent man in Leicester is that prostitution has increased in the last year or two. I do not attribute it to any particular cause, but certainly there has been a very great increase of prostitution in the last year or two.

16482. You state that petty theft has increased; are you able to connect that with the introduction of the new Poor Law by any facts within your knowledge?—No; I only state that as a fact.

16483. You mean to say that there is a coincidence in point of time?—Yes, I do.

16484. Do you know whether the number of bastards born has been more or less since the new law?—There is a great difficulty in ascertaining that; a very large number are not noticed now; a very large number are not sworn to the fathers, so that it is impossible almost to ascertain now.

 16485. Have

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16485. Have you any facts upon the subject?—No.

16486. Are you acquainted with the number of women who are now receiving relief on behalf of their bastard children under the operation of the new law?—I believe there has been a reference made to the books, and it appears by them that there are only 101 women in the whole of the manufacturing town of Leicester.

16487. Is that stated in the petition?—Yes, it is.

16488. Is that relief afforded to women who have several children, or only one?—It states here, and I believe it to be correct, that there are only five instances where relief is afforded to a woman having more than one bastard; there used to be great care taken by the overseers under the old law; if a woman had two bastards it was very frequently the case that she was brought before the magistrates to be punished; I have had that occur before me as a magistrate; I think they were quite as severe under the old as under the new law, and indeed more so, because now there is no interference; the father and mother make their own arrangement, and the overseer knows nothing about it; but before there was a good deal of sharp practice by the overseers, which there is not now.

16489. Is it your opinion that 101 is not a large number?—That is a very small number, very creditable to the town.

16490. Do you know, or have you reason to believe, that arrangements are now made between the putative father and the mother to render it unnecessary that the child should become chargeable?—I cannot speak to that from my own personal knowledge; I can prove that they are now maintained with a private understanding between the parties, without coming before any court, or else the woman has no relief whatever.

16491. That is a matter of inference on your mind?—Yes.

16492. Have many applications been made to the quarter sessions for orders?—I apprehend a much fewer number than used to be made; I do not know how they can make them, because a woman is not compelled to swear her child.

16493. Do you know whether any difficulties have been experienced in consequence of the woman being required to furnish corroborative evidence?—Generally speaking, the practice is, when a woman has a bastard she must make up her mind to make as good a bargain as she can with the father; there is an understanding between the two, and no exposure takes place.

16494. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that a good practice?—I think it a very bad one; it has a tendency to increase the number of bastards; formerly there was an exposure, but it is not so now.

16495. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is there a great difference between the Leicestershire manufacturers and the agricultural community as regards the operation of the new law in this respect, that a farmer has various means of employing his labourers to his own benefit while the master manufacturer has but one, and that entirely dependent upon the condition of trade?—I consider that a very material difference indeed; the agricultural employer can employ his labourers at all times to his own advantage, whereas it is impossible for the manufacturer, if the trade falls off, to create a demand, and therefore he is compelled to submit to the situation in which he is placed by circumstances which he cannot control.

16496. Is there a great comparative disadvantage to the stocking-maker from his being disqualified from hard labour or work of any kind, except at the trade to which he has been accustomed?—I should think it quite impossible that stocking-makers could sustain the labour of out-door work; the employment of stocking-makers is in-door, and they are not exposed to weather, or any severe out-door labour; it would be impossible for them to sustain any out-door labour for any period of time; they are obliged to be confined pretty much to the stocking-making.

16497. It is said to be a great advantage to the agricultural labourer, that though the provisions of the law may be somewhat harder than those which existed before, he is compensated by the production of steadier employment and higher wages; is that the case with the manufacturing labourers?—I should say not; they are in a different situation.

16498. Mr. *Hodges.*] Since relief has been refused under the new law, has it come under your observation that the poorer part of the inhabitants of those parishes have resorted to a system of begging for the relief of their necessities at

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periods of particular distress?—I have had a very great number of applications, sometimes in the course of one week, under these circumstances, where a pauper has had a child die, and the parish has refused to find him a coffin, and they have been obliged to resort to their neighbours and get assistance; and I have known instances where a child has been obliged to lie for several days, because a coffin could not be procured.

16499. If that is so, is it to be supposed that the refusal to find a coffin, or to assist the poor person under those circumstances, proceeded from any other notion than that the party was of ability, and therefore ought to find the coffin himself?—No doubt that was the opinion of the parties.

16500. Is it to be supposed that the party being possessed of that ability would suffer his child to be without a coffin, or would go round to his neighbours begging for assistance?—I think there cannot be a better proof of a man not being in ability, than the fact of the child being so many days without one, and the father being obliged to beg for one.

16501. You have known them to resort to begging at that and at other times, for the supply of their necessities?—There have been thousands of pounds subscribed in Leicester to relieve those parties, and that has superseded the necessity of begging. We had a Providence society established last year, which relieved many hundreds of people; previous to that there was a good deal of begging, but since then there has been much less.

16502. Has there been a diminution of the rate under the new law?—I should think it has been increased.

16503. If you were to add to that increase the increased amount of your subscriptions to those charitable institutions, perhaps the town of Leicester has not much benefited by the change?—It is very much injured; I conceive that the machinery of the new law is far more costly than its saving.

16504. *Chairman.*] The first observations upon this petition from Leicester refer mainly to some evidence that was given by Mr. Gulson on the subject of the sale of the furniture of paupers; you state in your petition with regard to Mr. Gulson's evidence, where he is asked whether paupers requiring parochial relief and obliged to enter the workhouse are not compelled to sell, or otherwise dispose of their furniture, implements of trade or any thing useful to them before they can avail themselves of the proffered relief, and in which he states that no case of that description ever came within his knowledge, that he never knew such instances to exist, and that he does not believe they do exist; have you ever observed at Leicester that, prior to the offer of any species of relief, paupers have been compelled to sell their furniture?—I never knew of their having any to sell.

16505. But, supposing the observations of Mr. Gulson to have pointed to this circumstance, that there was nothing in the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, and that there was nothing in the orders of any board of guardians, acting under the instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners, which would compel paupers to sell their furniture as a condition prior to their entering the workhouse, have you any thing to state in contradiction to that assertion?—I have known this occur many times; when a man has applied for relief he has been told, "Why, you have a good housefull of furniture, you cannot want relief;" but when a man is convinced that he must go into the workhouse, or have no relief, he will take care that he has not much furniture left before he applies; he would get rid of his furniture first, therefore there is no need to compel him to sell it; he takes that course himself.

16506. What I want to ask you distinctly is, whether any circumstance has come to your knowledge showing that either the board of guardians, acting upon their own convictions, or under the instructions of the Commissioners, have in any instances compelled a man to sell his furniture before he receives relief?—No, certainly not.

16507. Have you known sales of furniture to take place in consequence of the necessities of the applicant?—Yes.

16508. You believe that he sells his furniture, as he would avail himself of any resource within his reach, rather than avail himself of the parochial relief offered to him?—He does so with the hope that something may turn up before his furniture is all gone, and therefore he holds out as long as he can, and manages to keep his family till all is gone, and then he is obliged to submit to the workhouse; that

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is the principle upon which it is sold, under the hope that before it is all exhausted times may mend.

16509. But there is nothing in the instructions of the Commissioners making it a condition that, prior to the receipt of relief, the furniture shall be sold?—Certainly not.

16510. Is this a practice that has long prevailed among the poor, within your knowledge?—Yes, I think so; it was almost always the case; it is more extensive now, because the poor are now convinced that they cannot have relief out of the workhouse; they used to have temporary relief, and therefore they did not attempt to meddle with the furniture, because they thought they might have relief; they kept their houses open, but now, when they are convinced that they can have no relief but the workhouse, they sell their furniture first.

16511. Prior to the introduction of this law into Leicester had you any workhouse?—Yes, in every parish; at least, one or two small parishes had not, but in all the larger ones there was a workhouse.

16512. Was relief given in the workhouses?—Yes.

16513. Were those who were admitted to them under the necessity of selling their furniture before they went into the workhouse?—I never knew a person have furniture who went into the house.

16514. Do you happen to know whether in any instances of persons going into the workhouse either before or since the new law, their furniture has been retained by them when they have gone in?—I have never known that.

16515. Do you know any thing of the practice of the parishes in the neighbourhood of Leicester, or of Leicester itself, before the new law, in reference to those workhouses?—I know something of it.

16516. Was the workhouse generally offered as the mode of relief, or not?—The overseers and guardians exercised their discretion, and they exercised a discretion which I conceive was a wise discretion; if they were of opinion that the man was an industrious man and wanted a little assistance, which they considered would be temporary, to enable him to continue his house, they gave it him; but if they thought he was a man who would not work, they would take him into the workhouse, and set him to work; that was the practice.

16517. And you believe that in the cases in which the persons entered the workhouse, under the old law as well as those under the new, their establishments had been broken up, and their furniture sold?—Yes.

16518. This declaration to the contrary seems not to rest entirely upon the authority of Mr. Gulson; but the Committee who sat last year received the evidence of a person of great experience, of the name of Barnett, the master of the workhouse of Nottingham; he is asked, "Of those 44 able-bodied men that you have in the workhouse, are there any of them whose houses have been broken up upon their coming into the workhouse:" and he answers thus, "I am not aware of any house being broken up, except as it is their voluntary act; for my advice to all poor persons is to entrust their goods with some relatives or friends; I know of no house being broken up, except as I read of them in the newspaper. You have never sold the goods or furniture of a man, by order of the guardians before receiving him into the workhouse? No, I should think it highly illegal. It is illegal, as the man must be destitute before he comes into the house; but you have never exercised such a power? No, God forbid that I should be the instrument of doing such a thing in any case whatever. Have you known such a thing being done in the union? No, certainly not, nor any thing approaching it. Are you aware whether those able-bodied persons now in the workhouse sold their furniture before they came into the workhouse? They have pledged a considerable part of their furniture, no doubt; and though they have furniture, they must be considered in the light, if not of absolute destitution, yet in a state approaching tolerably near it; absolute destitution would be perpetual pauperism, pauperism without a remedy." Mr. Barnett's opinion seems to be, that, with reference to Nottingham, a place in which he has great experience, it is not the universal practice of the poor to sell their furniture upon coming to the workhouse; that his advice to them is to entrust their furniture with some friend; and that he thinks that it would be "perpetual pauperism," as he describes it, "pauperism without a remedy;" if you were to insist upon the poor selling their furniture before they came into the workhouse; do those statements accord with your experience?—If that is the practice at Nottingham it is a very new practice; I knew something, some little time ago, of the practice of Nottingham; it was not the practice then.

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16519. In what respect does the practice differ?—I never heard of such a system adopted as regards the furniture; I never heard of such advice being given to paupers; I never knew it either at Leicester or at Nottingham; I should not have thought it possible; it may be true; I have no right to doubt it, but I never knew it.

16520. If that advice were given, should you think it humane and reasonable advice?—Yes.

16521. Do you know any thing of Mr. Barnett's character?—No, I do not know Mr. Barnett.

16522. Let me refer to the practice of another union, the Derby Union, where the guardians have from the first adhered strictly to the Commissioners' regulations as to refusing relief to the able-bodied, except in the workhouse. "Before giving an order to any applicant, the chairman of the board invariably informs the applicant that he may deliver to the governor of the workhouse any articles of furniture which he may wish to preserve, and that they will be taken care of by the guardians for him, and returned to him on leaving the workhouse." That is the practice prevailing under the new law, differing as far as your experience would go from the practice at Leicester, either before the new law or since the new law; what I wish to ask you is, whether you consider that a humane and wise practice?—I should consider very much so.

16523. If, therefore, that practice takes place in unions acting strictly under the regulations of the Poor Law Commissioners, would it not appear to you that there is nothing in the intentions or instructions of the Commissioners at variance with the adoption of that practice?—I should think it is not a practice which would be acted upon; I do not know that many people would apply for leave to go into the workhouse who had much furniture to be taken care of; I do not think it would be applicable in one case out of a hundred.

16524. Is it consistent with your experience that every applicant for relief is so entirely in a destitute condition as to be without furniture?—Yes; when they make application to go into the workhouse, generally speaking, I think they will not go into the workhouse with a house full of furniture, or any thing at all approaching it; if they have common comforts, I think they will not go into the workhouse; I mean that if they have common comforts which would protect them from want, I do not think they would go into the workhouse.

16525. Under what regulations are you acting in the Leicester Union?—We are acting under the directions of the Poor Law Commissioners.

16526. What is the nature of the rules under which you are acting?—I cannot speak to that; I am not a guardian.

16527. But you have presented a petition describing the general practice of the union?—Yes.

16528. Had you, before presenting that petition, made yourself acquainted with the general rules under which they were acting in the Leicester Union?—Yes.

16529. What is the nature of those rules?—The Commissioners have not been at Leicester for many months.

16530. But, you having signed the petition, making observations upon the law, and many criticisms upon it, have you informed yourself of what are the rules under which relief is administered at Leicester?—I do not know the specific rules; the petition is with reference to the observations made before this Committee.

16531. The petition goes into the question of the tendency of the Poor Law, and speaks of the effect of the strict workhouse regulation, that is, refusing relief to the able-bodied, except in the workhouse; is that the practice?—That has not yet been the practice; they have not had workhouse room.

16532. Then the intentions of the Commissioners, so far as the refusal of relief to the able-bodied at Leicester, except in the workhouse, has never been carried into effect?—Not fully it has not, nor can it be.

16533. In point of fact it has not been?—It has been carried into effect as far as the workhouse has been capable of taking them in.

16534. Is the workhouse full?—I believe it is; they have been exchanged from one workhouse to another.

16535. Do you happen to know whether the practice of the board is, as far as the capacity of the workhouse will enable them, to refuse relief to the able-bodied out of the workhouse?—I believe it is.

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16536. Under the old law were the various parishes that had the management of the affairs of the poor, in the habit of using the workhouses at all with reference to the able-bodied?—Yes.

16537. Occasionally refusing out-door relief to the able-bodied?—Yes, where they were of bad character.

16538. Do you mean to say that in Leicester and in the parishes surrounding Leicester, the practice with reference to the refusal of out-door relief, was always grounded upon the character of the applicant?—In a great degree it was, as long as I was overseer.

16539. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do not you consider it to be, without reference to the rules of the Commissioners, one of the main principles of the new Poor Law Act, to refuse out-door relief to the able-bodied?—Certainly I consider it to be.

16540. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you take this Report of the Commissioners' into your hand and read that paragraph in the Poor Law Commissioners' second Report in page 6?—"In the Poor Law Amendment Bill, as first submitted to the consideration of Parliament, a clause was inserted, which directed that all relief to able-bodied paupers out of a workhouse should cease on the 1st of July 1835. In the progress of the Bill through Parliament this clause was withdrawn, and the Commissioners were charged with the important duty of fixing the time, when in each union that provision (which formed the first recommendation of the Commissioners of Poor Law inquiry, and is, in fact, the main object of the Poor Law Amendment Act), should take effect."

16541. The guardians of the Leicester Union, knowing that the main object of the Act was to secure the denial of out-door relief to able-bodied labourers, would they not naturally follow up what was the intention of the Poor Law Act, and think that they were discharging their duty in doing so?—That is the conviction that they have upon their minds.

16542. Will you read this instructional letter in the third Report to the boards of guardians; will you read No. 67 in that instructional letter in page 86?—"Where the pauper is the head of a family, and he declares that he has no work, and proves satisfactorily that he can obtain none, either in his own or within any of the parishes within a reasonable distance, he may be offered temporary relief within the workhouse until he can get some kind of work; relief, wholly or chiefly in kind, being given in the interval to the family, to prevent the necessity of immediately selling off their goods and breaking up the cottage establishment; the pauper should be distinctly told that such an arrangement can only be temporary, in order that his wife and family may seek work for him; and the strict workhouse principle requires, that all the members of a family claiming relief should enter the house, and give up their property for the benefit of the parish."

16543. If the guardians of the Leicester Union had read that instruction, would not they think themselves perfectly justified in carrying it out to the extent there stated?—If I were guardian I should, certainly.

16544. Have there, during the last year, been a very great number of persons out of employment in the town of Leicester, and unable to obtain work?—There have.

16545. Have they gone to the board of guardians and given proof that they could not obtain work?—I believe so.

16546. Then could the guardians, acting under that instructional letter, do otherwise than as they are therein directed, without being afraid of subjecting themselves to penalty?—No.

16547. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether that instructional letter has ever been sent to the board of guardians of Leicester?—I do not.

16548. Turn to page 75, and you will observe this instructional letter is addressed to various boards of guardians on their formation; you do not happen to know whether it has been addressed particularly to Leicester?—I do not.

16549. Do not you observe, with reference to the 67th paragraph which you have been reading, that it is a general remark and observation not in the shape of a rule?—I do not see how to make a distinction, it is instructions for the conduct of boards of guardians.

16550. Do you happen to know with reference to the parishes formerly, whether the property of the paupers was considered as the property of the parish?—If they had any property, I should think it would have been.

16551. Then

16551. Then you would think that under the old law as well as under the new, the property which belonged to paupers who went into the workhouse, would be considered the property of the parish?—I should think it would.

16552. With regard to the frames upon which the greater part of the stocking weavers are employed, those frames you say are the property of the hosiers?—Generally speaking they are.

16553. Let to the workmen at a certain rent?—Yes.

16554. And that rent is reduced when the frames are not wholly employed?—I speak from my own personal experience. I have been told in some instances, that the whole rent has been taken where the whole work has not been given: I never heard that till yesterday

16555. The practice in that respect probably will be various?—Yes.

16556. Those frame-work knitters are employed in the villages in that neighbourhood, are they not?—A great many of them in the towns.

16557. But some of them are employed in the villages around?—Yes.

16558. In those villages the parishes have at times attempted to employ the frame-work knitters upon work connected with their own trade?—They have.

16559. And that has been found an unsuccessful experiment?—I believe so, in every instance; I never knew it profitable.

16560. You object to the workhouse test being generally applied, do you not?—I should think it would be a very harsh measure to be generally applied.

16561. Do you think that it would be attended with any advantage, by inducing the persons subject to the operation of that test, to be more axious to obtain employment?—The greater the punishment a man is liable to, the more likely he will be to avoid it of course.

16562. Do not you think that some degree of pressure should be applied to persons applying for parish relief, in order to induce them to obtain employment?—I would do that by giving them as little as they could live upon; I would make the relief very limited.

16563. You object to the universal application of the workhouse test to the able-bodied?—I do.

16564. And you object also to the out-door labour test?—I only object to it as it has not been found possible to be put into profitable operation.

16565. Do you object to it on other grounds?—I do not know that I do, except on this, that stocking makers are not capable of breaking stones or doing that kind of out-door work, their constitutions would not enable them to do it; their usual mode of employment would totally unfit them for it.

16566. Do you happen to know what has been the effect of a long course of experience upon this subject at Nottingham?—No, I do not.

16567. You do not know what have been the general effects of a large application of this out-door labour test in Nottingham?—I have heard of their making a road there.

16568. But you do not know any thing of the circumstances of that case?—I do not, except what I have read in the evidence.

16569. With reference to the out-door labour test, as far as it was applied at Leicester, you say it turned out an unprofitable experiment?—I believe it did.

16570. Do you know why?—They could not obtain the money for the stones which the labour and material cost them.

16571. Have you ever heard that the wages given to persons occupied in that employment were greater than they could obtain as frame-work knitters?—I never heard that; I believe some men got as much at that as at the frame-work knitting; there was an attempt made by the guardians to reduce it, and there was a very violent resistance; the stone-breakers came up to the office with their hammers in their hands, and the guardians were terrified lest some violence might ensue if they reduced their wages.

16572. Objecting to the workhouse test, and to the out-door labour test, because it is unprofitable, and because the stocking makers are not used to that sort of labour, what test would you propose when there is any great pressure upon the trade of Leicester?—If a man was a man of good character, and had shown a disposition to manage his family in the best way he could, I would give that man some temporary relief at his own house.

16573. In the shape of money?—Yes; I would limit that relief so as to take care that he had not quite as much comfort as if he were at his regular work.

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16574. I will suppose the case of a man not entirely deprived of work, but partially, what would you do then?—I would give him assistance.

16575. You would not consider that to be relief in aid of wages?—No; I mean in this way; the manufacturers have been convinced latterly that it is not prudent to reduce labour; every manufacturer is convinced that the price of labour is reduced too low; that the man can scarcely maintain his family; the general plan, therefore, has been, in the last few years, to reduce the quantity of work, rather than to reduce the wages paid, and therefore they have had half work or three-fourths work, and that has had two good effects; in the first instance it has kept up the price of labour, and in the second instance kept the goods out of the market, and therefore sooner set the thing to rights; formerly the men were obliged to work extra hours, and thereby produced a larger quantity; that was very injurious, and the general feeling of the manufacturers now is, that it is better to reduce the quantity of work and pay the same rate; and, therefore, where a man obtained only four days work a week, I think it would be only right to give him some assistance; there are some families who would obtain a little employment in other occupations, and would not ask it; but where a man was burthened with a large family, I think that discretion might be safely exercised.

16576. You think it would be advisable that an arrangement of that kind should be made, in order that the market might not be overstocked, and that a diminished amount of work might be given to those workmen?—Yes, I do.

16577. You think that desirable for the manufacturer?—That the wages should not be reduced.

16578. Do you think it desirable for the manufacturer, that an arrangement should be made with his workmen that they should work only a certain number of days in the week, when there was not a full demand for goods?—Yes, we should prefer that to a reduction in the price of labour.

16579. You think that that might be attended by a greater quantity of goods being produced, and that in that way the market might be overstocked?—Yes, that has been the case.

16580. The arrangement which you have proposed is one which is advantageous to the manufacturer?—Yes, and to the workmen too.

16581. The workman being employed only a certain number of days by the manufacturer, would the wages for that number of days be sufficient to enable the workman to support a family of the ordinary size?—I do not think it would.

16582. In the event of their not being sufficient for that purpose, what relief would you give him?—I would propose to give him some small assistance.

16583. Out of the poor-rates?—Yes.

16584. Those rates being chargeable upon the landed property of the country?—Those rates being levied upon the parish to which the man belonged.

16585. The profits of trade are not rated; take the value of a stocking-frame, is any estimate formed of that, and is that rated?—No.

16586. What is the rateable property in the parish in which these operatives reside?—Houses, warehouses and lands.

16587. And you think it just, in order to support an arrangement, attended with advantage to the manufacturer, preventing the market from being overstocked with goods, and the price of goods from being reduced, that the property of the country should be taxed and charged with rates?—I think the land receives a full adequate advantage for that; I think the increased value of land is so much affected by the mercantile part of the country that the land receives a full equivalent for that tax, which is only accidental and occasional.

16588. Do you know in what manner land is rated, and houses are rated?—All the property in Leicester is rated at three-fourths the value now; there were formerly several different plans, each parish had its own system, but generally three-fourths, some took two-thirds.

16589. Mr. *Miles.*] Did the same proportion relate to lands, tenements and warehouses?—The rents of each were referred to.

16590. Was the deduction the same in each?—Not in every instance.

16591. What were the differences?—I cannot tell, for each parish had its own arrangement.

16592. *Chairman.*] But you are speaking of the arrangement which has been made subsequently to the New Assessment Act, since which there has been a new assessment,

assessment, and the property in Leicester has been rated at three-fourths of its value?—Yes, I believe so; I occupy in two parishes, and it is so there.

16593. That applies to houses?—Yes, and land.

16594. Mr. *Walker.*] Are you an occupier of land?—At this moment I am not; I was last year.

16595. Are you quite sure that the land is rated at the same ratio that the houses are?—I believe it is.

16596. There is not a larger deduction made in the case of houses?—I am not quite certain upon that; I think there is a little more deduction made upon house property, but not much; there is one-fourth taken off the houses, and I think, in the parish in which I reside, there is the same deduction made from the land.

16597. *Chairman.*] You receive rent for the frames; can you state any certain rent which is affixed to them?—It depends upon what the frames are.

16598. But a certain amount of rent is paid by the man who works to the owner of the frame?—Yes.

16599. Is it not the interest of the owner of the frames to keep those frames at work?—Certainly; if they stand still, he loses his rent.

16600. Has he not a further interest to keep the frame at work; if it is not used, does it not become injured?—If it is not taken care of.

16601. It may become corroded and deteriorated if it is not kept in work?—Certainly.

16602. Therefore, the manufacturer has a direct interest in keeping the frame at work, and the workman employed upon the frame?—That is a very grave consideration, as regards the conduct of the manufacturer; he judges which will be the least loss to him; if it be safe to lay by a stock, he would prefer to keep his frames at work; but if the material is at a high price and he is laying by a stock at a high price, and is running a risk of the price falling, he rather chooses not to keep his frames working; it entirely depends upon circumstances, which course he shall adopt.

16603. He is interested so far as the rent is concerned, and so far as the possible injury which the frame may sustain is concerned, in keeping it at work?—Yes, certainly.

16604. The owners of those frames reside principally in the town of Leicester?—Yes, the hosiers do.

16605. The frames frequently are worked in the country parishes?—Yes.

16606. The workmen who work those frames are entitled therefore to relief, if they receive any relief, at the expense of their respective parishes?—Yes, but they do not all belong to the country, though they live in the country.

16607. But they all belong to some parish; do many of them belong to parishes in which the hosier or owner of the frame does not reside?—Yes.

16608. Therefore the hosier has a direct interest in keeping the frame at work and the men employed, and if that work be not such as to enable the man to maintain his family, the hosier has an interest in obtaining for that man assistance from the parish?—I do not know that the hosier has much interest in it; it would be, I consider, to his advantage to let the men stand still; but if a hosier has got a respectable set of workmen he does not like to part with them, and therefore he keeps them at work, partly out of consideration for the men, and partly for himself; I have men who have worked for me and my father for 30 or 40 years, and therefore I would rather subject myself to inconvenience and a prospect of loss than turn them off.

16609. Mr. *Walker.*] The continued employment would depend upon the hosier's capital?—No doubt of it; but there are a vast many considerations involved in that question.

16610. *Chairman.*] But if the hosier is not able to give the man such employment as will enable him to maintain his family, he looks to the parish to which he belongs to make up the difference?—The question is, whether the parish will find him in part or find him in all; if the hosier will not employ him at all, the parish must keep him altogether; if the hosier employs him two-thirds, the parish must give him something to enable him to eke out his subsistence.

16611. Mr. *Liddell.*] You see no objection in practice to the operation of that compound principle as between the employer and the parish?—I think that is a beneficial principle to both parties, to give the man a little assistance, because the badness of trade does not last long; it has been more frequent of late; our foreign trade has been interfered with by the speculations in the trade; but I have known

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periods when there has not been a material difference in the price for ten years; but lately the experiments which have been tried have affected foreign trade, and we have been subject to fluctuations.

16612. *Chairman.*] At this moment are a great number in the neighbourhood of Leicester receiving relief at their own homes?—Not now; within the last six months they have.

16613. Therefore in that respect the Commissioners have not interfered to prohibit the continuance of that practice of out-door relief to the able-bodied?—I do not know that they have.

16614. Mr. *Liddell.*] You consider yourself quite as competent to conduct that mode of relief for the benefit of both parties, as any extrinsic body that may send you directions?—Yes, I think so.

16615. *Chairman.*] You state in the petition that the earnings during the year 1836 were about 9*s.* a week?—In full employment.

16616. You state that the wages now, when fully employed, are about the same?—They are about the same; some articles are reduced.

16617. What do you mean then by saying, that when in full employment their wages would not average more than 7*s.* a week?—The wages have been reduced in the last 14 or 15 months.

16618. You stated that the wages were 9*s.* a week?—No; I stated that they had been latterly reduced, upon some sorts, 3*d.* a dozen and 6*d.* a dozen.

16619. Speaking generally of workmen in the neighbourhood of Leicester, should you say that the wages have been reduced to that extent?—I do not think so much as 2*s.* out of 9*s.*

16620. You think that is an exaggerated statement?—I do not think there is so much difference as that.

16621. We need not speak of the workmen being upon one-half or quarter work?—I do not know that there has been an alteration made to the extent of a fifth.

16622. With reference to the persons who are half employed or a quarter employed, relief is extended to them from the parish?—I believe it is now.

16623. Mr. *Miles.*] Are there a great number of operatives in that condition, so as not to be able to obtain upon an average more than 9*s.* a week?—There have been.

16624. Do you know what the amount of the allowance was from the parish to enable them to eke out their wages?—No, I do not; that must depend upon the size of the family.

16625. Mr. *Freshfield.*] When you speak of 9*s.*, is that your own experience, or do you speak of the labourers generally?—I employ 400 or 500 myself and that is about the average that my men get at the present moment, or a year ago they did get that; some have had a reduction made since.

16626. *Chairman.*] You do not think there is a very great reduction in the wages at the present time?—No, not now.

16627. Mr. *Fielden.*] You state in this petition, that the petitioners "have found that during the year 1836 the average earnings of the frame-work knitters amounted, after deducting the expenses incident to his work, to no more than 9*s.* a week when fully employed; whereas at the present time, their wages, if they could obtain full employment, would not average more than 7*s.* a week; but the greater part of the workmen being upon half or quarter work, the average of what they really receive is not, in fact, more than 5*s.* per week;" when was this petition drawn up?—I think it was five or six weeks ago.

16628. Has employment increased in Leicester since this petition was drawn up?—A good deal.

16629. Was there a greater scarcity of work and less wages received by the operatives at the time this petition was framed, than there is now?—I do not think there is any difference in the amount paid for wages; there is a greater amount of work given out.

16630. But the difference arose from the deficiency of employment?—Yes.

16631. You have stated in your evidence that it is the practice of the masters in Leicester to reduce the quantity of work, instead of reducing the wages, when business is slack?—Yes; it has been latterly the case.

16632. Did any reduction take place between 1836 and the end of the year 1837?—Yes.

16633. Was

16633. Was that reduction pretty general among the master manufacturers?—I believe quite so.

16634. Do you know the amount of the reduction that took place?—It was different upon different sorts of goods; I cannot exactly state it; sometimes one-twelfth; sometimes a tenth, and in some cases, perhaps, an eighth; but not more I think, than that; there is one article, which is a very serious article in our trade which has been reduced considerably, which is the article of socks; the wages upon those have been very much reduced latterly; what the hands received 1*s.* 6*d.* for, they now receive 1*s.* for; that has taken place in the last three months.

16635. Are there a considerable portion of the operatives of Leicester employed in making socks?—Yes; in Leicester and the neighbourhood.

16636. Do you know the proportion that that manufacture bears to any one other branch of manufacture?—I cannot speak with certainty upon that; there is a large number employed upon it; but Mr. Swain, I believe, is a sock-maker, and he can speak to that.

16637. But you do know that a reduction from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* has taken place in the manufacture of socks?—I do.

16638. Knowing that to be the fact, will not this representation in the petition be rather below the mark than above it?—Yes.

16639. If a person was receiving 9*s.* a week for making socks in 1836, a reduction of 6*d.* in every 1*s.* 6*d.*, takes off 3*s.*, and therefore makes his receipts 6*s.*; and, therefore, that part of the allegation of the petition is borne out by your knowledge of the fact?—It is well borne out on the socks.

16640. But not borne out to the same extent upon the other branches of manufacture?—No, it is not.

16641. If the manufacturers, instead of abridging the quantity of work, had continued their work-people at full employment, what do you think would have been the operation on wages in that case?—They must ultimately have come down.

16642. Would they not have come down much lower than they have come down, as alleged in this petition?—Yes.

16643. Do not you think that the operation of the law which requires that a man should, before receiving relief, go into the workhouse, is directly calculated to effect that end?—I think it is.

16644. If the practice was universally adopted of refusing relief to men in Leicester out of the workhouse, have you any doubt that the price of wages would fall?—I am quite sure they would.

16645. *Chairman.*] At present the practice is not to refuse relief out of the workhouse?—It has not been the practice.

16646. And, with regard to those sock-makers, whose wages you have stated to be reduced from 9*s.* to 6*s.*, upon application to the board, and stating that they could not support their families, they would receive relief, would they not?—I am not a guardian, and, therefore, cannot say; I apprehend they would be afforded relief, if they showed that they required it.

16647. You have stated, in this petition, that a certain part of the workmen of Leicester and the neighbourhood are only upon half or quarter work; was that the case at the time that this petition was drawn up?—I think it was; the trade was exceedingly bad since the commencement of March to the present time; the season of the year for the demand for our goods commences about July; after that period till Christmas the hands are pretty well employed; this year it has commenced rather sooner, from there being a prospect of an advance of wool; wool has been rather looking up, and the parties have purchased rather earlier than they generally purchase; generally speaking, the demand begins about July; but the demand has been very limited since March; we have, ourselves, sometimes in the course of a week, not sold so many goods as we have paid in labour.

16648. But at present the people are more generally employed?—They are; there is more confidence in the price of goods.

16649. With regard to those Hinckley paupers, what was the arrangement made before the Poor Law was introduced?—I cannot say that any arrangement was made; there was an understanding.

16650. You say that the difficulties with regard to the Hinckley paupers had been met and surmounted before Mr. Stevens interfered in any way?—I do.

16651. And the relief that was afforded by this arrangement was interrupted by a direct order from Mr. Stevens?—It was.

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16652. Which prohibited relief out of the union, to the great hardship and inconvenience of the paupers themselves; was that order of Mr. Stevens ever acted upon?—The Hinckley people found themselves called upon to act upon it; and indeed it was so far acted upon that the Leicester guardians were obliged to take out orders of removal for all the families.

16653. It appears, in answer to question 2185, that in consequence of the threat to remove the Hinckley paupers from Leicester, "the Commissioners suspended the rule which forbade the relief to persons not resident in their own parish, and the Hinckley board of guardians were instructed to appoint a relieving officer to reside in Leicester to attend expressly to the cases of Hinckley paupers who had become chargeable in Leicester;" have you any thing to say in contradiction to that statement?—I know nothing of that; I am not a parish officer.

16654. Was not the case this, that there had been an arrangement formerly subsisting by which the Hinckley paupers resident in Leicester were paid in Leicester; and did not Mr. Stevens come into the country after certain rules issued by the Poor Law Commissioners, among which rules there was one prohibiting relief to non-resident able-bodied paupers, and did not Mr. Stevens remind the board of guardians of the existence of that rule, and point to the fact of relief being given to the Hinckley paupers who were resident in Leicester, and remind them that that relief was given in violation of that rule?—Yes.

16655. Upon that being represented to the Assistant-commissioner, Mr. Hall, who afterwards was in charge for a certain time of the union, did not Mr. Hall suspend the operation of the rule prohibiting relief to the able-bodied non-resident paupers, and in consequence of the suspension of that rule, was not a relieving officer appointed to attend to the Hinckley paupers resident in Leicester?—I believe so.

16656. Mr. *Fielden.*] Did not the fact of the suspension of that rule prove satisfactorily to those at Leicester that the Poor Law Bill could not be carried out in conformity with that law, without doing great injustice to the poor of Hinckley and Leicester?—Certainly; it would have been the means of taking several hundred families from Leicester who could not have obtained employment elsewhere.

16657. Does not that place the inhabitants of Leicester and of Hinckley in a state of doubt and uncertainty, which is very inconvenient to them, as well as injurious to the poor of both unions?—I should think so; the Hinckley trade and Leicester are very different; the one is good when the other is inferior, and men are sent from Hinckley to get employment at Leicester; when it is not good at Leicester it is quite unnecessary that they should do so.

16658. Are you of opinion, and is that the opinion of the rate-payers at Leicester, that they themselves are as capable to judge of any alterations to be made as any Commissioners can be who sit in Somerset-house, or who come down to the union of Hinckley or Leicester?—We think that we are much more competent.

16659. Having a knowledge of the poor and a knowledge of their earnings, and knowing their character, from being resident amongst them, are they not much more competent to give satisfaction to the rate-payers and the poor, than any directions that may be issued from Somerset-house?—They are much more competent to form an opinion.

16660. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that that opinion was entertained by every parish in England, that it was more competent than any other body to manage their own affairs?—I think it is the opinion of the rate-payers in Hinckley and Leicester; I do not reside in Hinckley, but I have always understood it to be so.

16661. Do you not think that it is the opinion of all rate-payers, that they can manage their own affairs?—Yes.

16662. In spite of that opinion, is it not a matter of notoriety that the poor-rates contributed to the separate parishes were miserably mismanaged?—I think with us they were all managed well, with the exception of one parish, and that was not managed so well.

16663. Was there not a great variety in the management?—It was pretty much upon the same principle.

16664. Have you any acquaintance with any other part of England?—Not as to the new Poor Law.

16665. Then

16665. Then it is not within your knowledge whether the poor-rates were well or ill managed?—No; I think you take credit for a saving in the operation of the Poor Law which it is not entitled to; I think a good deal is paid in another shape; farmers used formerly to get half their men paid out of the rate, but now they pay it in the shape of wages, therefore they pay quite as much, in fact.

16666. You would prefer the old system, would you?—I think the present is better, but if the farmer paid 5*s.* before in wages, and 5*s.* in rate, he does not save that 5*s.*, because he now pays that in wages.

16667. Are you of opinion, that it is better that the farmer should pay the money in wages than in rates?—Yes.

16668. Do you attribute that to the new law?—Yes.

16669. Though you think it fair and reasonable that the farmer should pay in wages for labour, rather than in rates, you are of opinion that it is fair that the farmer should pay a great part of the wages of the manufacturer out of the rate, though he derives no advantage from it?—No, I say that he derives an advantage from it.

16670. Still you think it reasonable to call upon the farmer to pay part of the wages of your workmen?—I do not think he does any such thing; he may contribute in advancing the man temporary relief, but he does not pay a farthing for his labour; his labour is not reduced in value; the farmer may give him some assistance to enable him to eke out his means, but I do not get a farthing by that.

16671. You, employing the man during part of the week, rely upon the farmer to maintain him during the other part?—I rely upon the parish that he belongs to.

16672. In the country parishes the greater part of the property is landed and agricultural property?—Yes, a good deal of it.

16673. Then you come upon the rate-payers of those parishes to support those workmen who are only imperfectly supported by the assistance which they receive from you?—Yes, and they get a good equivalent from it in the increased value of the produce of land in consequence of the market for that produce being so near them.

16674. You think that a fair arrangement between the landed and manufacturing property, that the manufacturer should employ his workmen only a part of each week, and should expect the farmer to maintain them for the other part?—I think the workman depends principally upon the manufacturer; he will employ as many as he can employ.

16675. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Would you apply the same principle to the agricultural labourers if they were in distress?—To all resident in the union.

16676. If there was a depression of employment, you would not send an agricultural labourer into the workhouse if he was a man of good character?—Certainly not.

16677. Mr. *Fielden.*] Is it not a provision of the law of the land that those who cannot obtain employment shall be relieved out of the parish funds?—I understand it is.

16678. Is it otherwise than acting in support of that provision, that when men are unemployed or employed at inadequate wages, that that relief should be given them which the law of the land lays down?—They are fully entitled to it.

16679. And is not a man who is in destitute circumstances from want of sufficient employment as much deserving of relief as the man who has no employment at all?—If he is a man of good character he ought to be relieved; if he is a man of bad character I would put him to the test of the workhouse.

16680. Are the operatives of Leicester, generally speaking, desirous of obtaining work, and of earning their bread by the sweat of their brow?—I think, generally speaking, they are; I think all the men are of industrious habits, speaking of them generally.

16681. You do not make complaints of the want of economy and industry of the operatives of Leicester?—I do not; I think they maintain their character as well as any men in England.

16682. Has the increase of population in Leicester led to an increased demand for agricultural produce in the surrounding districts?—Since I can recollect, the population of Leicester was not 20,000, I believe now it is more than 45,000, and therefore a very great increase of consumption must have taken place, and that must have increased the value of the produce of land.

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16683. The produce of land in that district is now sold at higher prices, in your opinion, than it could be if that population were not resident there?—I cannot state that, because, during the war with France, wheat was sold at 80 *s.* a quarter, and that was in consequence of the large armies we had to maintain abroad.

16684. Having had this increase of population within your experience, does not the residence of that population on the spot lead to a considerably increased demand, and entail less expense upon the farmer, from having a market so near as Leicester is, than he would have to incur provided he had to send his produce to a greater distance?—Yes, I think the farmer receives a full equivalent for the expense he is put to.

16685. Are you of opinion that the owners of land in Leicester have had the rent of that land augmented by the manufacturing population in Leicester?—The rent of the land has kept up very high.

16686. If wages could be paid at a higher rate than they are now at Leicester, would not that market be still better than it now is?—No doubt.

16687. If the operation of the Poor Law be, as you have stated it to be, to reduce the wages, what will be the consequence upon the owners of the soil and the farmers who cultivate it, in the adjoining districts?—They must be compelled to leave them, or they must starve.

16688. Will it not be a great disadvantage to the owner of the soil, and to the farmer who cultivates it, that the relief to the able-bodied out of the workhouse should be altogether withdrawn?—I should think it would be a very serious one.

16689. If the wages in Leicester, by the operation of this law, should be reduced from 9*s.* to 6*s.* would not every inhabitant of Leicester, both rich and poor, become very much more dissatisfied than they were under the operation of the old law?—No doubt of it.

16690. Does not the fact of Mr. Hall having suspended the rule, show that there is as great a variety of practice now, under the administration of the new law, as there was under the administration of the old law?—I think it proves that it cannot be carried out in the way that the law directs that it should be carried out.

16691. The uniformity which it was said that this law would effect in the administration of the affairs, has not yet been carried into effect?—Certainly not.

16692. Do you believe that it ever can be carried into effect, without creating much greater dissatisfaction than has yet taken place in the town of Leicester?—I do not think it could.

16693. Then, would it not be wise that this law should undergo a revision, in order that those who have the management of the parochial affairs in the town of Leicester should have the control over the raising of the rates and the expenditure of them, without having the control of any other power whatever?—That is my opinion.

16694. *Chairman.*] Are you aware what the poor-rate was in Leicester and the neighbourhood a few years ago?—I cannot speak to it positively; the impression upon my mind is that I have paid more rate lately than I did before.

16695. Do you happen to know that in Hinckley the rate exceeded a pound per acre?—Yes, it was very high.

16696. Do you know that at Wigston Magna, in November 1832, the property had fallen one-half since 1820, and was not saleable even at that reduction?—I do; I do not think tenants could be got for farms at Wigston, the payment to the rate was so large.

16697. Were the rates very high at that time?—They were.

16698. That was under the separate parochial management?—Yes; but it was improved long before the law came into operation; every body felt the necessity for it; they saw the value of property lessening, and every body felt that it was necessary to exert himself, and improve their management.

16699. But there had been mismanagement in those parishes?—Yes.

16700. That took place while it was in the hands of the separate parishes?—It took place during the panic; the magistrates directed the overseers to be somewhat liberal to the poor, and that was the commencement of the mischief; it never became thoroughly rectified till it became very mischevious.

16701. Do you know that these statements were made to the Commissioners of Inquiry, with reference to the property in Leicester and its immediate neighbourhood; this is the statement of an eminent solicitor, resident at Loughborough; he gives the annual value of the real property as assessed in different years and then

then he goes on to say, "It has undoubtedly fallen in value since the last valuation, *i. e.*, in the last two years, and the population has been more than trebled in 30 years, and that in spite of an emigration of considerable amount, at the parish expense, in 1829. The eighteen-penny children will eat up this parish in 10 years more, unless some relief be afforded us;" and then again, "If some material change does not very soon take place, the time is not far distant when the whole rent will be absorbed in the poor-rates; much land in the hands of proprietors wanting tenants; our poor-rate being high makes farms in other parishes more desirable than in this."?—I never heard those complaints, though I live within eleven miles of Loughborough; I never heard of distress to that extent in Loughborough.

16702. Have you heard with respect to Hinckley, and other parishes in your neighbourhood, that the poor-rates were high, and that great mismanagement took place?—Yes.

16703. Mr. *Hodges.*] And you have stated that you trace the origin of this to the year 1826?—Yes, in a great degree.

16704. Can you state what the condition of those parishes was prior to 1826?—I cannot; I was overseer in the year 1812, and at that time the rates were very high.

16705. Had there been any panic at that time?—No; I cannot call to my recollection the immediate cause of it.

16706. Did they fall or rise between 1812 and 1826?—They were higher or lower, according to the trade.

16707. After 1826 they became very high, and then the rate-payers bestirred themselves, and effected great reductions?—Yes.

16708. Have any further reductions than they effected been effected under the new law?—I am not aware that there have.

16709. Then you are of opinion that the old law gave to rate-payers the power of lowering the rates?—I think the statute of Elizabeth was good in principle; if the Act had been carried out it was quite sufficient for any purpose.

16710. You have been asked whether you do not know that, generally throughout England great abuse prevailed; have you not heard also, that in many parts of England, where those great abuses did prevail, parishes doing as they have done in your neighbourhood have succeeded in setting things to rights?—They might have done so.

16711. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is it your opinion, that a great part of the evil of the old system arose from the interference of the magistrates, and that the vestries thought that they were bound to give the poor relief, or that the magistrate would coerce them?—I cannot state that I think it was altogether owing to the magistrates.

16712. You have spoken of the advantages which the land derives from the increase of the population in your neighbourhood; have the rates increased very much from the increase of the manufacturing population?—I do not think that.

16713. You have stated, that particular parishes suffered from the way in which they were burthened with poor?—Yes; but there was as large a proportion of manufacturers at that period as there are now; the increase of the manufacturing population has been almost all in Leicester; the owners in villages have taken care of that; there has not been accommodation for them in the villages. My opinion is, that the number of manufacturers in the villages has been lessened.

16714. Is it your opinion that, in a state of extreme destitution, it would be possible to carry the Poor Law into effect in Leicester?—I think it would be quite impossible.

16715. Mr. *Miles.*] You state that you want the law of Elizabeth, and that if that had been carried out nothing more was required?—Very little.

16716. Did that make the slightest difference between persons of good character and persons of bad character, or did it not look to the fact of destitution?—That was the main ingredient, but there was always a discretion permitted.

16717. Is there one word as to the good character or the bad character of a labourer in the Act of Elizabeth?—I do not think there is.

16718. Does it not refer simply to persons who are destitute?—Yes.

16719. And if parties, from feelings of humanity, have made a distinction between persons of good and persons of bad character, have they not made a distinction which does not exist, either in the wording or the spirit of the law?—

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There is no question about that, and the same thing must be done with this law, or it cannot be carried into effect; you can no more enforce the provision under the new law than under the old.

16720. I understand that the Commissioners, in the case of the Hinckley, non-resident paupers resident in Leicester, have thought it necessary to relax, very properly, from their rule, which prohibits relief being given to non-resident paupers; supposing that had been part of a law before under the old system, would the magistrates, unless that law had been altered, have had the power of ordering that relief?—They could not peremptorily have ordered it, but they could have given the parishes, where the parties resided an order to give relief.

16721. Supposing that rule or regulation of the Commissioners had been the law of the land, could the magistrates, without that law being altered, have given, of themselves, this necessary relief out of the parish to which the parties belonged?—They had no power given them by the law, but though the magistrates had not that power it was a power that was always exercised; the practice was that the magistrates did afford relief.

16722. Do not you conceive, whatever your judgment of the Poor Laws may be, that in a country burthened as England is, there must occasionally be relaxations in the system?—No doubt; it is very proper that there should be.

16723. In the case of Leicester, where this has taken place, have not the Commissioners acted with this discretion, that where a great number of the Hinckley paupers engaged in the manufactures in the town have been resident in Leicester, and have not, from certain circumstances, been able to obtain full employment, they have relaxed their rule with regard to non-resident paupers?—Yes.

16724. Have they not deferred issuing that rule prohibiting out-door relief to non-resident paupers?—Yes.

16725. Do not you think it better that that should be immediately under the control of persons who are enabled, by the powers invested in them, to alter the law so as to meet existing circumstances, than that the parochial authorities should be bound by one Act of Parliament which, in proper construction, can only be altered by a statute to repeal other Acts?—I think the guardians would be as competent to judge as the Commissioners.

16726. You would give the guardians power to judge, as well as the Commissioners?—Yes.

16727. That would be an alteration from the old law?—It would be the old law in spirit, but not in letter.

16728. You have stated that you were very well managed in Leicester, except in one parish; will you describe the different instances of mismanagement which took place in that parish?—There was a very great laxity in the collection of the rate; that was one great cause of mismanagement; if persons resisted the payment it was not enforced upon them, and those who paid the rates paid a great deal more than they ought to pay; the mismanagement was not in the relief to paupers, but in the collection of the rate, and the management of the workhouse; that was badly managed.

16729. In what way?—It was farmed at so much per head, which I conceive to be a very bad system.

16730. Mr. *Hodges.*] It was too expensive?—Yes; and I consider it objectionable, putting a man in to farm the paupers.

16731. Mr. *Miles.*] So that mismanagement had crept into the town of Leicester?—No doubt of it.

16732. Do not you conceive that it is the general effect of all misconceptions of law, that having commenced in a corner of the land, it generally pervades the whole of the union?—Yes, but it remedies itself in a great degree; people soon find the necessity for attending to it, and it proved so in Leicester, for it was remedied previous to the introduction of the law almost generally.

16733. Mr. *Walker.*] Was the mismanaged parish under the care of overseers or a select vestry?—A select vestry.

16734. *Chairman.*] There has been a good deal of distress within the last year or two at Leicester?—No; the trade was good the year before last.

16735. When did the trade cease to be good?—Not till within the last few months; it was bad in some parts of last year, but I should not say that there was an extremely bad trade.

16736. When, from a general depression of trade, persons are reduced to difficulties and straits, is it not natural that petty crimes should increase?—I was magistrate

magistrate for five years, and I had an opportunity of judging of the number to be tried at the sessions, and I think that in the last two years the number of prosecutions have been trebled.

16737. Have you not had a new police introduced lately into Leicester?—Yes, about two years ago.

16738. Do you think that the number of prosecutions has been increased since the new police has been introduced?—Yes.

16739. Do you not attribute that to the offences being observed with more accuracy than they were before?—I do not draw the same conclusion.

16740. Do you think the increase of crime was owing to the introduction of the police?—No, I do not say that; but I do not think the police has prevented crime.

16741. Do you think that the number of prosecutions is an accurate measure of the increase of offences?—That is quite a matter of opinion.

16742. Do you think, at Leicester, though the prosecutions have very much increased, crime has increased in the same proportion?—I think it has.

16743. And that in the last two years?—Yes.

16744. In spite of the trade being good?—Yes.

16745. To what do you attribute that?—I cannot attribute it to any cause.

16746. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Are you aware that the present calendar is unusually heavy?—I am not aware of the present calendar; I am one of the auditors of the corporation accounts, and in that way I know that the expense of prosecutions has very much increased in the last two years.

16747. Mr. *Liddell.*] Do you think that crime has been more frequent in the last two or three years than it was?—I do.

16748. Do you think that detections are more frequent?—If there are more crimes, I think more thieves are caught; but the new police have not had the effect of preventing crime, which I think is the advantage to be derived from the police.

16749. May not the police be expected to act as a preventive of crime?—It has not done so yet.

16750. Mr. *Miles.*] What are the wages in Nottingham; are they similar to those in Leicester?—I should think there is not much difference; I cannot speak to my own knowledge.

16751. Are you aware that the spirit of the Poor Law Amendment Act has been carried out in the parish of St. Mary, Nottingham?—I do not know any thing about the Poor Law in Nottingham.

16752. Do you conceive, if it is possible to carry out the rule prohibiting out-door relief to the able-bodied in Nottingham, that it is possible to carry it out in Leicester?—What is possible in the one case is possible in the other.

16753. There is a parallel between the two cases?—I should think so; the trade is pretty much alike.

16754. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have been asked about the 43d of Elizabeth; is there any thing in the 43d of Elizabeth that required workhouses to be erected in which to put the poor?—I am sure I cannot speak to that; I am not so much of a lawyer as to carry that in my mind.

16755. One of the enactments of the 43d of Elizabeth is, that where cottages were not sufficient, they should be erected for the poor to reside in?—Yes.

16756. No such thing as workhouses is ever mentioned in the 43d of Elizabeth?—I believe not.

16757. Are you aware that a long period of time elapsed after the 43d of Elizabeth before a workhouse was built?—Yes.

16758. The 9th of George the First is the first enactment by which workhouses were directed to be built in which to put the poor; are you or are you not aware of that fact?—I am not aware of it; my attention has not been turned to Acts of Parliament except in my office of overseer, or in connexion with the administration of justice.

16759. Are you aware that, by a subsequent Act, the 9th of George the First was repealed, and thereby enabling parishes to give relief out of the workhouses?—Yes, I am aware of that.

16760. And are you aware that that Act, which authorized the giving of out-door relief, was repealed by the present Act, the Poor Law Amendment Act?—Yes.

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16761. And that the intention of the present Act, as expressed by the Commissioners themselves is, that all out-door relief to able-bodied persons shall be denied out of the workhouse?—Yes.

16762. Do you think it is possible, by any power in existence in this country, to carry that Act into full operation in the Leicester Union, or in the town of Leicester, without throwing the town of Leicester into entire confusion?—It would be quite impossible if you threw it into entire confusion; it would be impossible under any circumstances.

16763. Mr. *Miles.*] If it has been carried on in Nottingham without confusion, is it not possible to carry it on in Leicester?—I should say that the same thing can be effected under the same circumstances, but I cannot speak to Nottingham.

16764. Mr. *Fielden.*] Are you aware whether it has been carried into effect in Nottingham?—Certainly not.

16765. Are you aware that there is no evidence before the Committee which proves that it has been carried into effect?—No, I am not aware.

16766. Are you aware that they have been obliged to apply the out-door labour test?—Yes.

16767. Do you believe that the same obstacles will prevail at Nottingham to carrying the Act into effect as prevail at Leicester?—Yes.

16768. Mr. *Miles.*] Have you read Mr. Barnett's evidence, given at the close of last Session?—I have not.

16769. You have stated, that at Leicester, as far as workhouses would hold the applicants for relief, the workhouse has been made use of by the board of guardians?—I do not mean to say that it has, to the full extent.

16770. Have you or have you not said in the former part of your evidence, that the workhouses have been filled in Leicester?—I do not know that I said that they were filled.

16771. Mr. *Fielden.*] You have stated that crime has increased to a considerable extent since the police was introduced into the town of Leicester; was the introduction of that increase of police in consequence of the Municipal Corporation Act being passed?—I believe it was.

16772. What number has the increase been in the establishment of the police in the town of Leicester?—I am sure I cannot speak to that; there has been a different system adopted altogether; the police consists of 40 or 50.

16773. Do you know what the number was before?—The number of fixed constables was nothing like what it now is; but there were assistants, and with those there were almost as many as there are now.

16774. Are those police engaged day and night in watching the town of Leicester?—Some of them are.

16775. Are they paid for their services out of the corporation fund?—Yes.

16776. Can you account to the Committee, or give any opinion upon the subject, as to the cause of the increase of prosecutions at Leicester, concurrent with the increase of the police in that town?—I should beg to decline giving any opinion; I should content myself with merely stating the fact.

16777. You stated in a former part of your evidence that it is the practice for the operatives to pay 1*s.*, 1*s.* 3*d.*, and in some instances as high as 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, for the use of the frames?—Yes.

16778. The frames, you have also said, are used in the cottages of the poor?—Yes, chiefly in their own houses.

16779. Those frames are purchased by the manufacturers who employ the poor in manufacturing?—Yes.

16780. Have any of the poor themselves frames of their own?—Several of them have; not so many as used to have.

16781. Are those employed upon frames of their own or those employed upon the frames of the manufacturers more likely to be thrown out of work in periods of commercial embarrassment?—No doubt those who have frames of their own.

16782. Then is there any encouragement for a workman to get a frame of his own for the purpose of making the hosiery that is produced at Leicester?—There is no inducement to them, except to save their rent.

16783. But will the saving of rent induce them to possess themselves of those frames, knowing that if work becomes scarce they will be the parties most likely to suffer?—I have stated that there are not so many stocking-makers as formerly who have frames, and that is owing to the fluctuations of late; when trade was steady it was important that the stocking-makers should have their own frames.

16784. Then

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16784. Then the poor themselves ought not to be blamed for not possessing themselves of those frames, if they are likely to be sufferers from it?—I should think not; there is another evil; if the poor possess their own frames, they are frequently induced to offer to work at less money, in order to get their frames employed; I have known that done, rather than have them stand still.

16785. And that in itself has the effect of bringing down the rate of wages?—Yes.

16786. And, consequently, is mischievous to the labourers as well as to the manufacturers themselves?—Most certainly it is.

16787. You stated that, seven years ago the parishes had taken to employ the poor?—It might be about that time.

16788. Would that be in the year 1829?—I am sure I cannot possibly say in what year it was; recently there has been an attempt of that kind made in some parishes.

16789. Was there a great pressure upon the manufactures of Leicester at the time the attempt was made to employ them by the parish?—That was the reason of it.

16790. Why was that abandoned?—Because it was so unprofitable to the parish; it was thought that the hosiers were the best judges of the quantity of goods wanted; and employing the paupers in the manufacture only increased the evil; it kept the market overstocked.

16791. Then the employment of the poor in that way by the parishioners is, in your opinion, calculated to reduce the wages of those employed in the trade?—I think it is; the men, I think, were quite aware of that themselves.

16792. Can you form to yourself any possible source of employment which the board of guardians, acting under the Commissioners, can find in sufficient abundance for the operatives of Leicester, that will not unfit them for their former operations, that is, hose-making, &c., in periods of great commercial embarrassment?—I can point out no such employment.

16793. Then is not the attempt that has been made at Nottingham, in your opinion, calculated to prove altogether inefficacious for the employment of the poor in periods of great commercial embarrassment?—There may be temporary employment, such as making a road, which may employ them for a few months, but it will not be permanent.

16794. Are you aware that, in the evidence given before this Committee, it has been stated that this road would never have been made had it not been for the severe distress which prevailed at Nottingham?—Yes, I am aware of that.

16795. Was it any better to make a road in order to employ the poor, which road might not be considered necessary than it would be to dig holes one day and fill them up the second?—That might be a matter of opinion; the road might be found to be beneficial.

16796. You have said that the periods of commercial embarrassment have been more frequent of late years than they were in your former experience; if these commercial embarrassments should be repeated in shorter periods of time, what would be the effect of denying out-door relief in the town of Leicester, in the way that has been recommended or suggested under the Poor Law Amendment Act?—I am sure I could not contemplate the effect of it without great apprehension; it would be productive of very great evils, I think.

16797. Mr. *Miles*.] Have you any reason to believe that, supposing the same kind of commercial distress were to occur two or three years hence, there would be any difference in the treatment of the poor from what there was in the last embarrassment?—I cannot form any opinion upon that.

16798. Mr. *Fielden*.] You stated that the machinery of the new law was more expensive than the machinery of the old law?—I drew that inference because the poor-rates are not reduced, and therefore, if the poor have received less, the money must have gone somewhere.

16799. Have there been any sums taken out of the poor-rates for the purpose of erecting a workhouse in the Leicester Union?—I believe not.

16800. Then have the whole of the rates collected been expended in the administration of relief to the poor during the time that the union has been in operation?—Yes.

16801. Somewhat similar to the way in which they were expended before the law was introduced?—Yes.

 16802. Notwithstanding

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16802. Notwithstanding the introduction of the law the poor-rates in Leicester have been augmented since its introduction?—I cannot speak positively; but I believe that to be the fact; I myself am paying more rates.

16803. Has the Poor Law been in operation at Leicester in the manner in which it is now in operation for two years and more?—I think it has; but I cannot speak to the precise time.

16804. During the year 1836, was not the trade of Leicester in what is called as healthy a state as it has been for several years past?—Yes, it has.

19805. Did the poor-rates increase during the year 1836?—No, they continued pretty steady for two or three years.

16806. Was there any diminution in the poor-rates from the alteration in practice under the new law during that year?—Not that I am aware of.

16807. Do you think that the poor-rates in Leicester can be reduced with any propriety unless increased wages can be given to the labouring part of the community in work?—Either increased wages or increased employment.

16808. But when they are in full employment, and when the trade is brisk, can any reduction in the rate of expenditure take place without the poor being sufferers, in a way which the inhabitants of Leicester would not like to see?—I think, if the poor had more employment than they have now, they would certainly want less assistance from the parish; if by that question is meant whether they would be better with less work or with more work, I should say, with more work, and that the rates should be reduced in consequence.

16809. But work, without adequate wages, will not supply the wants of the poor?—Certainly not.

16810. Then it becomes a question of wages as well as work?—Yes.

16811. Do you think that the new law is calculated to uphold wages or to depress them?—I have already said that I think it is calculated to depress them.

16812. Mr. *Miles*.] Supposing your average price of wages was 9*s*.; do you conceive that it would be necessary, taking one man with another, that those individuals should apply to the parish to assist them in their common expenses?—I think, generally speaking, unless a man were burthened with a large small family, he would do without relief; if a man had four small children, he could not do without relief, he could not maintain them; but when they become older some of the children earn something for the maintenance of the family.

16813. But if the average wages were 9*s*. a week, you would not have them go to the rates in aid of wages?—Certainly not; I should think that quite unnecessary in ordinary circumstances.

16814. Mr. *Fielden*.] Have you seen any disposition prevailing among the operatives of Leicester to throw themselves upon the parish fund, when they can maintain themselves by adequate wages?—There are some idle fellows that would like to be maintained by the parish, but, generally speaking, the operatives would not do so.

16815. Where there are idle men do they form the exception and not the rule?—They certainly do.

16816. The general body of the labouring poor at Leicester are adverse to going to the parish fund if they can avoid it?—I think they are.

16817. Do the cottagers pay poor-rate in the town of Leicester?—All the houses are rated in Leicester now.

16818. Then the poor themselves are made to contribute to this fund?—No doubt, if they occupy a house.

16819. Being made contributors to the raising of the rates, do you not think it exceedingly harsh treatment upon a man who has paid rates for a series of years, that in a period of severe distress he is to be driven into the workhouse, or he cannot obtain relief?—I do not think the circumstance of paying rates gives him any claim at all; the situation that he is placed in gives him a claim; but if I were to pay ever so much rate I should not have a right to go and ask for that back I do not think a man has a claim from the single circumstance that he has paid rates; he is fairly entitled to relief if he is destitute.

16820. Does not the fact of the payment of rates make the treatment more harsh, in your opinion, under those circumstances?—I should not think him more entitled to relief under those circumstances; I think that he has not any greater claim than the man who has not paid rates.

Mr.

Mr. *John Swain* Examined.

16821. Mr. *Freshfield.*] WHAT is your line of life?—I am a frame-work knitter.

16822. Are you an operative?—I am, but I manufacture a little for myself.

16823. Have you heard the evidence of Mr. Rawson upon the subject of the petition?—I have.

16824. Do you concur generally with him in his statements in answer to Mr. Gulson and Mr. Hall?—I do.

16825. As to some circumstances which are better known to yourself, as to this village, Burbage, do you know the situation of that village?—Yes; I should like to know whether Burbage is the place that was meant by Mr. Hall.

16826. Supposing Burbage to be the village meant by the letter B. did you ever hear of the statement being made by Mr. Hall that, under the old system, the paupers were in the habit of spending the money allowed to them at the public-house, and that no part of the money was taken from that public-house, but that it was spent there, and that the etiquette was, that the man who brought the money, and received 5 *l.* a year for that, was treated and not charged any thing, on account of the allowance made to him?—Yes, I did.

16827. Have you reason to believe that that statement is true or not?—I have reason to believe that it is not true.

16828. Did you ever hear that such a fact existed?—I only heard from a copy of the evidence of Mr. Hall.

16829. Since that evidence was given, have you taken pains to inquire and ascertain whether any facts existed which could warrant that statement?—Yes, I have.

16830. Do you reside in the immediate neighbourhood?—Yes.

16831. Will you be so good as to state what inquiries you have made, and the result of those inquiries?—I have been in the habit of trading with the carrier who brought the money from Burbage; he was the person that brought the money from Burbage, and paid them; and when I read the evidence I made him acquainted with it, and told him all the circumstances of it, and he entirely denied the whole and every part of it; I went to the landlord of the house where the poor were paid.

16832. Will you mention the sign?—The Shakspeare's Head, Southgate-street; the landlord denied it.

16833. Will you mention the name of the carrier?—Edward Dawson; the landlord denied it; so did his wife and servant; the carrier went home with this report, and the gentlemen of Burbage wished to see the evidence themselves; I gave them a copy of the evidence; I sent them the report in which it was, and they believed it to be Burbage, and they desired me to make inquiry whether it was so; I wrote to you, Mr. Freshfield, upon the subject to get information; I received no answer, and so far it has gone; the carrier has written to me to say that he is very much hurt with this statement, as it affects his character; he says that it is calculated to injure his character throughout the whole of the neighbourhood, if believed; but the man is not at all addicted to drink; I should not think you could get him to drink above half a pint of ale.

16834. *Chairman.*] Did he say that it was altogether untrue?—Yes; that he never drank half a pint of ale, or saw a pauper that he paid drink half a pint of ale in his life.

16835. Was he in the habit of meeting those paupers and paying them?—Yes.

16836. Did he mean to say that the paupers were never in the habit of drinking at that public-house?—Yes.

16837. That they went away with the whole of the money in their pocket?—Yes.

16838. Mr. *Miles.*] Did he receive 5 *l.* a year for paying the poor?—I think five guineas.

16839. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Are you an owner of frames yourself?—Yes, a small owner.

16840. Are you well acquainted with the condition of the manufacturing poor in Leicester?—Yes, I am.

16841. What is the usual rate of wages there?—I should think 7 *s.* at the present, for persons in full employment, taking all branches of the trade; some branches of the trade cannot obtain so much as others; we take the whole, and say 7 *s.* is the average; and I mean it to be understood that that average is applied to men, not to children; I employ some men.

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16842. You are speaking now of the wages of a man, the father of a family?—Yes.

16843. Can the wife earn any thing in that neighbourhood?—It depends whether before marriage she has been brought up to the frame or learned since; there are not so many women learned as there were.

16844. What can they earn who understand it?—It is according to the number of the family they have to attend to; I have a wife who used to work at the frame, and she worked till she could not get a great deal.

16845. How soon would children be able to work in the frame?—From 10, I should say.

16846. What would a child of 10 years of age earn?—I should think you might say that he earned nothing, comparatively, until he was 11, because he would take some of the father's time to instruct him, which would be quite equal to what he would earn.

6847. After 11, what would he earn?—Some would take the trade more acutely; they would perhaps earn 3 *s.* or 4 *s.* a week.

16848. Without considering him as an extraordinary boy, what should you say he would earn?—I should say from 2 *s.* to 3 *s.* a week.

16849. And that from 11 up to what age?—Up to 13.

16850. And beyond 13 would his wages increase?—Certainly; when he was 15 years of age he would be as able to maintain himself as his father.

16851. So that after 15 years of age you consider him a workman?—Yes.

16852. *Chairman.*] Is there any other sort of occupation that the women and children apply themselves to in Leicester?—Seaming stockings.

16853. What can they earn at that?—Perhaps 15 *d.* a week or 18 *d.* a week.

16854. Is there any other species of general occupation for the women, besides the ordinary occupations of women in any town?—I should beg to be understood in this way, when the man is a stocking-maker and has a wife, she seams his hose, and that employs her time; there are other women whose husbands do not work in the frame, and they can bring their husbands something in by some other employment.

16855. You mean that the wives of those who are employed in frame-work knitting cannot earn any thing, because they are seaming the hose which the husbands make?—I should say not a very great deal more than what he would make, if she had any family to attend to and could not work at it.

16856. Would the value of his wages be only 7 *s.* a week, including the value of the wife's work?—In certain instances it is the case.

16857. Speaking generally, is that so?—No, I should say not generally, because instead of having to pay for it, he would have his wife to do it.

16858. What would his earnings be in that case?—Seven shillings.

16859. Then there would be the value of the wife's work?—Yes, about 15 *d.*

16860. That would be to be added to the 7 *s.*?—Yes.

16861. Mr. *Freshfield.*] If his wife did not work he would have to put out his hose to seam?—Yes.

16862. And he would have to pay for that; would that be deducted from the 7*s.*?—I mean 7 *s.* clear.

16863. And his wife would save him that if she works at this?—Yes.

16864. She may be considered, therefore, as earning that?—Yes.

16865. Mr. *Liddell.*] You said, in describing the wages of the children, that between 15 and 16 a boy is as well able to maintain himself as his father; after that age, when a boy is enabled to make sufficient wages to maintain himself, does he usually continue to live in his father's house and assist his father for some years, or does he go off upon his own account?—It is very commonly the case that children, when they feel that they are so independent of their father and mother, when poverty is at so high a pitch, leave their father and mother, and shift from poverty to go to their own loaf; they think they can do better than by giving part of it away.

16866. Do they shift from their father's roof at 16 and 17 years of age?—Yes.

16867. Are very early marriages prevalent in Leicester?—I cannot speak to that; I suppose that goes on as usual; they begin to court early; I do not know that any alteration has been made in those things.

16868. Supposing

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16868. Supposing him to be able to make sufficient wages to maintain himself, he might, if he were a prudent youth, save a certain quantity of money before he married; is that the habit among the youthful labourers?—No; I should say decidedly not; for instance, I have been in the habit of having two young men living with me, and it would be to my interest, if a young man could earn his own livelihood comfortably and pay his expenses, to have young men; but, instead of that, I have let the frames to married men, because the young men cannot maintain themselves and pay their little expenses; the young man must be very industrious to pay his expenses out of his earnings, such as lodging and tea, and keep himself comfortably; I have refused to employ them, and I have let my frames stand still for that reason.

16869. What can they earn?—They must be very industrious to earn more than 7*s.* a week; a young man with very great industry; and that will not pay their way.

16870. You yourself cannot earn more than 8*s.*?—I cannot.

16871. Can you then pay your way?—I had made a little before these bad times came.

16872. I do not mean you individually so much as the father of a family who earns only 8*s.* week; how can he pay his way, when a young man can hardly maintain himself?—It is often a mystery to me how they do pay their way; I have married men working for me who, I know to my own knowledge, never taste meat from week's end to week's end; when a man takes 8*s.* at the end of the week, there are 2*s.* to be paid for house rent, for the landlords now will not let them owe a week's rent, and when the family has a bit of bread, I do not know where the meat is to come from, or any other comfort; I am surprised to think how they do pay their way.

16873. Do you think that the single men live a little better than the married men?—Yes.

16874. In that way you account for the young men not saving any thing?—Yes, it takes all they get to maintain them, and the others have to pinch.

16875. In fact, they suffer almost constant privation?—Yes.

16876. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Is sock-making a distinct branch at Leicester?—Yes.

16877. Are the stocking frames applicable to that?—Yes; but they want alteration.

16878. Is the same labourer often employed in making socks and also stockings, or is it a distinct branch?—There are some that make stockings that could make socks, but those who have been brought up generally to socks, cannot make stockings.

16879. Do you know what the state of things is at Great Wigston?—Yes, I know Wigston well.

16880. Is that in prosperity or distress?—Work is in demand more than it has been.

16881. In former times, do you recollect the state of that place?—Yes.

16882. Was it in great distress?—It was.

16883. Very great distress?—Yes.

16884. Before the new Poor Law was introduced, what was the poor-rate attaching to the land?—The rate had been very high, but the management had materially lowered the rate; I have it from a gentleman of Wigston that the rate is equally high or higher now than it was just before the Poor Law was introduced into it.

16885. Can you speak from memory; take the year 1832; was the poor-rate then very high?—Yes.

16886. Was it reduced subsequently to that time, before the introduction of the new law?—Yes.

16887. By better management it was reduced?—Yes.

16888. Do you know whether the poor-rate is as high now as it was in 1832?—I cannot speak of my own knowledge, but I have it from several respectable rate-payers that it is higher than it was before the introduction of the Poor Law.

16889. Then the improvement of the system had reduced it to a lower rate than the present rate?—Yes; there is a gentleman, of the name of Sedgely, who has gone through it; he was the instrument of bringing the rate down to the state that it was.

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16890. Was he a paid overseer?—Yes.

16891. Do you know other villages in the same state where the poor-rates were very high, and by an improved management were reduced, and at the present time are as high as they were before?—I cannot speak to any but Burbage; I inquired of the carrier, and he said that the rates were not reduced.

16892. *Chairman.*] When the alteration for the better took place in those parishes, what were the steps that the assistant overseers took in order to reduce the rates?—Mr. Sedgely was perpetual overseer, and they had got the parish full of paupers, from bad management, some how or other, through the magistrates; I suppose that to be the case.

16893. Do you think that the bad management arose from applications having been made to the magistrates, and the magistrates granting orders?—Yes; that is the reason I have heard generally assigned.

16894. What steps do the assistant overseers take to correct that?—I suppose the magistrates became informed that such steps would be taken, and that the real character of persons should be represented to them, and they altered their system of ordering every person relief.

16895. Do you know, from your acquaintance with any parish in that neighbourhood, what were the steps that were taken in order to produce this improvement?—I have heard that Mr. Sedgely fully devoted himself to it; he got up early and sat up late, and went round to see those who were receiving relief, how they were employing their time; where he found that the parties were not distressed he stopped their relief; and so, in a great measure, the impostors were struck off from the books, and the rates became less.

16896. Mr. *Freshfield.*] The farmers are not capable of giving any employment to stocking-makers?—No.

16897. The habits of stocking-makers render them incapable of working in agriculture?—Yes, in very many instances; there are some that have learned stocking-making that have been agricultural labourers.

16898. Mr. *Miles.*] Do they not go out harvest-making?—Yes.

16899. Mr. *Freshfield.*] You say that you let out frames; is any deduction made for the rent of frames when they are not in full work?—It is the practice, generally, to have full frame-rent, though they only give part of a week's work; it is not wholly so; there are honourable exceptions.

16900. The frames are not rated to the poor?—No.

16901. Do you think that that or any substitute for that would be just, as between the manufacturing districts and the agricultural districts?—I am sure I durst not give an opinion upon that subject; I have read a little upon the subject through the medium of the press; I do not wish to give an opinion upon it.

16902. Are you satisfied with the way in which the union is constituted at Leicester, or would you suggest any alteration as to the districts which should compose the union?—I consider that the administration of this law would be well entrusted in the hands of our guardians, to be annually chosen.

16903. Are you satisfied with the form of the union itself?—I have no objections to it; the administration of the law is very ill adapted to the circumstances of our town; and neither do I think that it ever can be brought practically to bear upon us; it is met by the poorer classes with very great disgust.

16904. *Chairman.*] Is there an Anti-poor-law Association at Leicester?—No.

16905. There is no such thing?—No.

16906. Are there any persons resident at Leicester who are members of an Anti-poor-law Association?—I do not know any.

16907. Will you give a little more precise explanation of the manner in which Mr. Sedgely, and other intelligent assistant overseers, proceeded to the improvement of their parishes?—I should like to correct my previous answer; I suppose you mean an association for the repeal of the Bill; there is a provisional committee, but we are not decidedly against the Bill; we wish for the Bill, with an alteration; if altered it would be received by us; we ask for certain amendments.

16908. Can you tell what Mr. Sedgely, and other persons employed in the same way, did, in order to improve the administration of the parishes?—I am not a resident of Wigston, neither was I there when Mr. Sedgely was there; though I married there, and my wife's friends live there.

16909. You think the workmen who are employed upon the frame-work knitting are generally incapable of agricultural employment?—Yes.

16910. In what way would you propose, if those persons were thrown out of work, that they should be assisted by their parishes?—I do not know; I should say not to make stockings; decidedly so.

16911. In what way would you propose that they should be employed?—In any way that did not injure their powers; I do not think, physically, that they are able to go and break stones; I know that some accidents have arisen from that.

16912. You say that you would not advise their being employed in breaking stones, or in making stockings; in what way then would you propose to relieve them?—We should relieve them with that which should suit their necessities.

16913. Would you impose any condition upon their receipt of relief?—The very best that could be adopted for them.

16914. What would you propose?—I do not know what that might be.

16915. Have you no suggestion to give upon the matter?—No.

16916. You would not employ them to break stones?—I do not say that; I say, not to that extent which would injure them in doing their work when they could get it to do.

16917. You say that you would not propose them to follow any occupation which should injure their health; but, short of that, would you employ them in any occupation, such as making a road?—Yes.

16918. You would not relieve them without their doing some work?—No.

16919. Do you happen to know any thing of the town of Nottingham?—I have been in Nottingham.

16920. Do you know the manner in which the persons thrown out of work were employed there?—Yes.

16921. Were they employed in making a road?—Yes.

16922. Do you think that a proper mode of employing persons so circumstanced?—Yes, I should say it would be a good mode.

16923. Do you think it desirable that there should be something in the nature of a test, in order to enable the parochial authorities to ascertain whether parties are really necessitous or impostors, whether they are really disposed to work or not?—Yes.

16924. Do you object to the application of the workhouse test?—Yes, to the industrious.

16925. How would they be distinguished from the idle?—They would soon be known by the masters, and the neighbours by whom they were surrounded; let it be known that a man is having relief, and it would soon be known what his character was.

16926. Do you not think there is a strong temptation operating upon the minds of men to obtain assistance from the parish, without giving any return in labour?—There may be in some of that disposition, but I do not think that it is general.

16927. Taking the generality of men, if you were to grant relief upon any condition that was not in any degree disagreeable to them, relief that might be obtained on easy terms upon their application, do you not think that the notoriety of such a relief being within their reach would induce the generality of people to relax from their exertions to support themselves?—Generally, I should say, some test is quite necessary.

16928. What test would you propose, other than the workhouse test?—I should first state my objections to the workhouse test; I consider that the workhouse test applied to all is cruel in itself, inasmuch as it tears from the bosom of its mother her infant; and again, Mr. Hall has stated in another part of his evidence, that in the case of a poor woman being left destitute with children, one, two, three or four years of age, that woman would have the workhouse offered to her, and she must go into the workhouse, or she must maintain her family without any relief; now if that woman's case is not a destitute one, I think there are very few such to be found; and we are laying out a great deal of money to build workhouses, but there is very little occasion for them, except to serve as beacons to prevent people going in.

16929. With regard to separation of the infant from the mother, if it should be understood that no such separation takes place according to any regulation that has been issued by the Commissioners, that would remove that part of your objection?—Yes.

16930. With regard to the separation of wives from their husbands, do not you think that in any workhouse establishment, particularly in any large workhouse establishment, where numbers of paupers were admitted under any circumstances,

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it would be quite impossible, consistently with the due observance of order and decency in the house, that women and men should be allowed to live together?—There are houses built which will afford accommodation for those things; but I should not press the workhouse upon what I should call honest, industrious persons; I should give them relief out, so that the workhouse would not be crammed so full as you imagine; and I think a great many evils would arise from confining 200 or 300 men together; and so from confining a large number of women together; and I think there would be no difficulty in having little apartments set apart for the men and their wives to sleep in.

16931. Are you aware of any workhouse establishment in any large town, before the introduction of this law, in which the separation of males and females has not existed?—I have heard of one in St. Mary's parish, in Nottingham.

16932. But in the workhouse in St. Mary's parish the classification is carried so far as to separate males from females, is it not?—Yes, so I understand.

16933. Have you ever heard of any instance in which they are not classified?—Yes.

16934. State any instance where the men and women are living together?—I should say in St. Margaret's parish.

16935. There is a workhouse there?—Yes.

16936. Are the men and women in the habit of living together?—They have never been separated.

16937. Has every couple a separate apartment?—I cannot speak to that.

16938. What should you suppose, consistent with any observance of decency, would be the arrangement in that particular?—It would be very little expense to have rooms partitioned off.

16939. You think that would be practicable?—I do, provided it were thought necessary.

16940. You object to the universal application of the workhouse test, but you consider some test necessary; what test would you suggest?—I should say that any law to take a bad man from his wife, or a bad mother from her child, is a good law, if there were a line of demarcation between the bad and the good; I was speaking to a hosier last week upon this very subject, and I drove him into such a corner that he did not know how to get away from it; I asked him in my own case what he would do if he were me, if I were brought into necessity and had to go to the board, the law being in full operation, whether he would go into the workhouse, and he said, "I should tell them I would not;" I said, "What would be the use of that? the law says that you must and you shall;" and he says, "Then I should steal;" I was to choose which of the two I would do; now, I think that with a good man who has never indulged in any licentiousness, but has endeavoured to maintain his wife and children throughout life, it is hard to tear them asunder.

16941. Do you think it is common for a man who has been well conducted to be so far reduced by distress as to lose his employment and to have no friends to assist him?—Yes; in Leicester, out of 7,000 that were relieved from the rates in the last panic, not many months ago, there were many of those that were good men, and yet they were subjected to that and may be subject to it again.

16942. At the time that you relieved 7,000 persons in Leicester, were the whole of those 7,000 admitted into the workhouse?—No, it was not possible, and never will be.

16943. What did they do with reference to those that were not taken into the workhouse?—They were relieved out of the house, both in kind and in money.

16944. Did they do any work?—In one instance they went to stone-breaking.

16945. In how many instances?—They were all desired to go to the stone-breaking, and those that were not able to go were relieved, and those that would not go, I believe, went without relief.

16946. Do you believe that was a just arrangement?—As far as the work could be done by them, without injuring them, I think it just.

16947. Then you think it just in the case of a number of men being thrown out of employment, and being under the necessity of coming to the parish for relief, that the parish should say, "We must have some test by which we can tell whether you are in distress or not; and if we relieve you, you must give us work in return?"—Yes, I do.

16948. Are

16948. Are you a member of any benefit society, or have you been?—Yes, I am. Mr. *John Swain.*

16949. What are the rules with regard to the administration of relief in the benefit societies, are they not strict?—Yes. 26 June 1838.

16950. What are the rules with regard to the condition upon which you give relief to the parties who apply?—In the case of persons being sick; in no other case do they give relief, except in sickness.

16951. Do you ever, in your benefit society, when you give relief in case of sickness, give relief to parties who are able to earn any thing at the time that they are receiving something from you?—Yes.

16952. You take very great care to protect yourself as much as possible from imposition?—Yes; the steward goes to them.

16953. You have no arrangement for giving relief in your benefit societies in case of non-employment?—No.

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16954. *Chairman.*] YOU have heard the statement made by Mr. Rawson and Mr. Swain; do you wish to make any observations upon any part of it?—I can state rather more clearly than has yet been stated the transaction between the Leicester and Hinckley Unions, adverted to in the petition; the case was this, relief to non-resident able-bodied paupers had been forbidden by a regulation of the Commissioners issued to the Hinckley Union; the Hinckley board of guardians infringed this regulation under peculiar circumstances; my colleague, Mr. Stevens, when he was apprised of this, reminded the board of guardians that they were acting illegally; about that time I was sent specially into Leicestershire, and I suppose, upon my representations, the regulation previously issued by the Commissioners was suspended, and means were taken to relieve paupers chargeable to the parishes in the Hinckley Union, though resident in Leicester; the tendency of my evidence on the former occasion, that related to those transactions, was to show that, under the superintendence and control of the central board, any peculiar emergency could be immediately met by a correspondent change of the law. *Richard Hall,* Esq.

16955. Mr. *Miles.*] When the Hinckley board of guardians took upon themselves to disobey the order of the Commissioners relative to non-resident paupers, did they, in that case, apply to the Commissioners for their sanction of the course that they had pursued?—They did not apply previously to taking that course.

16956. If they had applied as a case of emergency, under which this must have been classed, having determined themselves to give the relief sought for, was it not in the power of the Commissioners in 15 days either to give them leave to do away with the rule, or were the Commissioners not enabled at once to state that they peremptorily refused to consent to what the guardians had done?—Yes, that is the state of the law.

16957. *Chairman.*] Will you give any explanation which you have with regard to Burbage?—The anecdote which I included in my evidence in illustration of a class of abuses that followed the giving of relief to non-resident paupers, was communicated to me, as I believe, at a meeting in Burbage; it was repeated by me in several parts of Leicestershire afterwards, on a great many occasions, and I never heard it contradicted till I saw the contradiction in the petition from Leicester.

16958. The statement was made to you in such a manner that you believed it was entitled to credit?—Yes, it was made publicly.

16959. Was it contradicted at the time?—It was not.

16960. Was it made at a public meeting?—I believe it was; there were several persons present; I do not mean to say that it was a meeting advertised, but it was made at a meeting of parties interested in the affairs of Burbage, who, I supposed, must have known the thing if it were so or if it were not so.

16961. Have you ever mentioned it publicly?—Yes.

16962. Did you ever hear any contradiction of it before?—Never.

16963. So that you thought there were reasonable grounds of its being true?—Yes; the statement was not made here with a view of casting any imputation upon the character of the person who conveyed relief from Burbage to Leicester, and I should be very anxious to rescue his character from any imputation of that kind; it was as an illustration of the evils attendant upon giving relief to non-resident paupers.

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16964. And upon the payment of paupers in an ale-house?—Yes.

16965. Do you recollect the names of any parties who were present at the meeting in Burbage, or can you mention the names of any persons who were present at other meetings where you mentioned it?—No.

16966. Were the persons who were present when you first heard it, persons who had been engaged in the management of the parish affairs?—I think they were.

16967. What sort of meeting was it?—It was such a meeting as I could collect together when I first went into the parish to inquire into the way in which the parish had been managed.

16968. Was it there you heard the story?—Yes.

16969. Do you remember who told it to you?—No, I do not; the time would have been in the autumn of the year 1835.

16970. In No. 2253 you were asked, "Do you think it possible, in the state in which you left Leicester, supposing their workhouses had been built, that the rule prohibiting all out-door relief to the able-bodied could have been carried into execution?—Decidedly, it could at the time when I left Leicester." The petitioners state, "That the answer to the question numbered 2253, in the evidence last referred to, is calculated to deceive your Honourable House, and is in fact an evasion of the inquiry made by Mr. Miles, a member of the said Select Committee of your Honourable House." Have you any explanation to make upon that statement?—My answer to the question numbered 2253, was simply an expression of my opinion, that at the time when I left Leicester the rule prohibiting out-door relief to the able-bodied could have been carried into execution if the workhouse had been built, Mr. Miles's question being precisely in those terms.

16971. Are you still of that opinion?—I am.

16972. Will you state what you know of the reasons why the labour-test, which was established for a time at Leicester, was abandoned?—I believe the labour-test was abandoned because it was found that it had been established on such an erroneous principle, with reference to the payment for the labour done, that it was discovered to be futile, the error consisted in affixing a rate of payment so high that the men could earn as much, or more, by stone-breaking on the parish account as they could have earned by frame-work knitting on their own account.

16973. It was therefore more desirable for the men to apply for employment in breaking granite, than to continue their occupation in frame-work knitting?—That is what I mean.

16974. You believe that that was the inducement for abandoning the test?—Yes.

16975. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you know what amount they could earn?—Not precisely, but I have put in before to this Committee a statement procured from the clerk of the union of the amount which they did earn from day to day and from week to week.

16976. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know whether any attempt was made to reduce the rate of payment?—Yes, an attempt was made to reduce the rate to something like the rate paid in the neighbourhood of Leicester, which the men resisted, and the authorities yielded to the resistance for the time; they afterwards abolished the labour test.

16977. Therefore the whole of that scheme was broken up by intimidation, under the influence of the labourers; was that the case?—Yes.

16978. Do you think that all reasonable means were taken by the board to reduce the amount of remuneration?—I never heard of their taking any other means than that which I have described.

16979. If the guardians had persisted in this attempt of reducing the rate, would mischief have arisen?—I believe that it was probable; and I expressed that opinion at the time; I think that there was a radical error in the establishing of that labour test.

16980. What was the number of paupers relieved during the month previous to your leaving Leicester?—I should wish to refer to the returns which the clerk of the union has.

16981. Where there six or seven thousand relieved at that time?—Yes, perhaps there were.

16982. But you believe that the effect of the workhouse test would have been to reduce the number of applicants?—Yes; I believe that the amount of pauperism would have been, as has been the case in other instances, immediately diminished, through the operation of that test, to an inconsiderable bulk.

16983. But

16983. But you think in case of any depression of trade, such as that which then existed in Leicester, under no circumstances would it be right to apply the workhouse test without the assistance of an out-door labour test?—That I stated in my previous evidence before the Committee.

16984. Do you think that the workhouse test would have reduced the number of applicants from seven thousand to seven hundred?—It is impossible to express an opinion so precisely, as to the reduction which might have been effected.

16985. Do you know what the rate paid for the parish work was?—I rather think the guardians paid 2*s.* 2*d.* for that which in the quarries was done for 1*s.* 6*d.*

16986. Therefore it was a positive inducement to multiply the number of applications?—Yes.

16987. Mr. *Miles.*] Do you think that the law is likely to have the same effect with regard to the stocking-makers as with the agricultural population, in producing steadier employment and higher wages?—I confess that I do think so.

16988. Do not you suppose that all trades are subject to greater fluctuations than agriculture is?—Yes.

16989. And when great masses are congregated in towns subject to those fluctuations, do not you conceive that that will in a certain way influence wages, and depress them more at particular periods than it would do in an agricultural population?—I think that is found to be the case.

16990. Do you not conceive, likewise, relative to its having the effect of making the price of wages higher, that so much depends on the different implements with which the different manufactures are carried on, the number of hands employed in those manufactures, and the great improvement in machinery, that all those circumstances tend to lower wages?—I conceive that they do.

16991. Then taking into consideration, first of all, the fact that in those towns greater fluctuations exist than in the agricultural population, and taking at the same time into consideration the fact that labour is acted upon exceedingly by the improvement in machinery and other circumstances, do you not think that the law, as carried into execution in manufacturing towns, will have a different effect from the effect produced in agricultural communities?—I do not see why the law should have a different effect in the one case from the other; the effect of the law might be less immediate and less in the one case than in the other; but that it would have a different effect I cannot see.

16992. Then do you conceive that, both in the manufacturing and the agricultural districts, it would have the effect of ensuring steadier employment and higher wages?—That is what I believe.

16993. Can you state how that effect could be produced in Leicestershire?—In this way; it has been stated here to-day that the manufacturers have an interest in keeping their men at work, and keeping their frames at work; this interest arises, besides other causes, out of this, that they prefer maintaining a connexion with those work-people who have been working under them for a long time previously; now, I believe that if there is a facility for making up the maintenance of those people out of the parish fund, by so much the exertion of the master to supply work to his labourer will be diminished; but take away the facility for making up his maintenance, or, as it is commonly termed, do away with the relief in aid of wages, and then the desire of the master to maintain his connexion with his work-people will operate to induce him to give them a more steady supply of work.

16994. But if we have it in evidence that, owing to the stagnation of trade, manufacturers can scarcely employ the men two-thirds, how can they find capital to employ them the other third?—I confess that is a question which involves very difficult considerations; but, at the same time, it might lead to this, and perhaps would, that the master would make a selection from among the men, that he would give steadier employment to those whom he was most desirous of maintaining, and so that distinction of character would be made, and very properly made, which is so much contended for.

16995. What would become of the mass of the population, who would not be the best part of the population, but still would be honest and industrious, and be ready to take work if they could obtain it?—They would have that provision which the law has made for persons in circumstances of destitution.

16996. They, upon being asked, could not affirm that their wages were steadier

or higher?—Certainly not; those men could not; the receivers of parochial relief could not.

16997. Do you think it is desirable that the frames in Leicester should be rated?—That is a very difficult question, indeed; it has been argued in courts of law, and I know that a very considerable difference of opinion prevails upon it; there is a large number of persons who do consider it a practical injustice that the pauperism created by the manufacturer should be relieved by the agriculturist, which no doubt has been the case to a very considerable extent in Leicestershire; and instead of the agriculturist receiving his *quid pro quo* under those circumstances, as has been stated, it appears to me that the history of the country shows that in no part of England has agricultural property been rendered so utterly valueless as in Leicestershire, and especially in the manufacturing villages of Leicestershire; the burthen of the paupers has, in some instances, actually exhausted the revenues of the land; I believe I am correct in stating that in Great Wigston land has been rendered wholly unsaleable, and even put out of cultivation.

16998. Did that apply to the county generally?—The bulk of the population of Great Wigston are frame-work knitters, and it is not a parish in which many agriculturists reside.

16999. *Chairman.*] Those observations which you have made probably apply to that part of Leicestershire in which the population is principally manufacturing?—Yes.

17000. How many villages in the county are so situated?—I cannot exactly tell; but they are many.

17001. Are there any other villages besides Wigston that are similarly circumstanced, that is, villages in which the agricultural interests may have been supposed to suffer by the increase of poor-rates, owing to the manufacturers?—Sheepshead is one.

17002. Do you mean that Sheepshead has been affected to the same extent as Wigston?—I cannot say that; I know the land has been out of cultivation in Wigston, on account of the burthen cast upon it; I mean to say that there was an inordinate burthen cast upon agricultural property in many villages in Leicestershire, in consequence of the residence within them of manufacturing labourers.

17003. Do you happen to know whether Leicester itself did not suffer very severely from the same circumstances; the rates were very much increased in Leicester?—Yes.

7004. Mr. *Miles.*] If the difficulties could be removed, which at present exist, as to the rating of those frames; would you think it expedient that such a rating should take place?—I hardly know; I really can hardly give an opinion upon that.

17005. Mr. *Fielden.*] Have I understood you right, that you have said that the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act in the Leicester and Hinckley Unions, is calculated to give steadier employment and higher wages to the operatives?—I said that I thought that the operation of the amended administration did tend to give steadier employment.

17006. And higher wages?—I do not think that I said higher wages; if I did say higher wages, I would explain that, by saying that I mean a larger amount of receipts in the way of wages, resulting from more constant employment.

17007. How often have you known a want of employment in those two unions since they came under your superintendence?—I have stated before, that I left Leicestershire immediately after the formation of the Leicester Union; and I returned to Leicester again during the period of the great depression of trade last year, and that was the only time at which I found a great lack of employment.

17008. Did you find that lack of employment accompanied by a reduction of wages?—No, not by a reduction of wages.

17009. Has there been any reduction of the wages paid in Leicester and Hinckley?—There is no doubt, that during this depression of trade, the frame-work knitters received less than they would have received in times of flourishing trade.

17010. Did they receive less for the same description of work?—I apprehend not.

17011. Do you know that they did not?—I do not know it of my own knowledge.

17012. Are you prepared to say that the testimony which has been given by a manufacturer himself here to-day, as to the reduction of wages, is not true?—No, I am not prepared to say any thing of the kind.

17013. Do you believe that that manufacturer knows that wages have been reduced in the Leicester Union?—I think it did not very clearly appear that the two witnesses who have been examined here to-day did agree that there had been a reduction of wages.

17014. Did you hear the answer given, which stated the reduction of wages in the manufacture of socks from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.*?—Yes.

17015. Are you prepared to deny that fact?—Not at all.

17016. Do you believe it to be true?—Certainly.

17017. Then, has the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act been to raise the wages of labour in the Leicester Union?—I do not think that the effect of the evidence has been to disprove that, simply because, in one part, there has been a considerable reduction in the wages of labour.

17018. Do you know any manufacture in which there has been a rise of wages since the Poor Law Act came into operation?—I do not.

17019. But you do know, or at least you have reason to believe, that there has been a considerable reduction in wages?—No, I have no reason to believe that.

17020. Then you do not believe the testimony given here to-day?—I believe, as has been stated, that there has been a reduction in the wages paid for one description of article.

17021. Do you believe that this petition that has been presented to this House comes from a great number of individuals engaged in the manufacture of hose in the Leicester Union?—I believe that.

17022. Do you believe that they know that the reduction of wages, which they assert in that petition, has taken place?—I believe, with respect to one of the witnesses, that his evidence, which I have heard here to-day, in support of the allegations of this petition, does not prove that so great a reduction in wages as is alleged in the petition has really taken place; in fact that his evidence tends to show that a very immaterial, if any, reduction of wages has taken place in Leicester.

17023. Then when the petition states the reduction to have been from 9*s.* to 7*s.*, and the witnesses prove that it has been from 9*s.* to 6*s.*, you do not believe that part of the witnesses' statement?—I have not heard the witnesses state that the reduction has been from 9*s.* to 6*s.* on the manufactures generally.

17024. Confine your answer to one particular question; the question I put to you is, whether the witness has not proved before the Committee this morning that in the sock manufacture the wages have been reduced from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.*, and that that reduction would make a difference in the wages of the sock weaver from 9*s.* to 6*s.* in the week?—I heard the witness make that statement, and I have no reason to disbelieve him.

17025. Then you have reason to believe that that statement is true, and it is stated by the petitioners who have sent the petition to the House of Commons, that a reduction has taken place in either one branch or more branches than one from 9*s.* to less than 7*s.* a week?—I do not wish to say any thing to imply the slightest disrespect for the petitioners, but I affirm, that all that has been stated here to-day, is, that a reduction has taken place in one description of manufacture at Leicester.

17025.* You did not wish to throw discredit upon the petitioners, though you wish to deny the truth of their allegations?——

17026. *Chairman.*] Do you wish to deny the truth of their allegation?—Not at all.

17027. Have you said any thing implying that?—No, I believe I have said nothing which implies a disbelief of the petition, more than this, that I believe there to be a tendency in the amended administration of the Poor Law to procure a more steady employment of those persons engaged in manufacture.

17028. Mr. *Fielden.*] Will you state to the Committee how it is calculated to produce this more steady employment?—I think that will be found, on reference to the questions a little time back; I then stated what was admitted here, that there was a disposition on the part of the employers to maintain an unbroken connexion with those persons who were working for them, arising out of various motives; and I said that in proportion as the facility for making up the

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maintenance of those persons, the necessity for which making up of their maintenance arises out of the insufficient quantity that they receive in the shape of wages for labour,—in the proportion as the facility for making up the wages out of the poor-rate is diminished, in the same degree will the disposition of the manufacturer to employ the labourer prevail to induce him to find more constant employment for him.

17029. If a man has employment for only four days a week in the town of Leicester, and the wages that he receives for that employment are altogether inadequate to maintain himself and his family, do you call it making up wages out of the rates if something be allowed him from the parish for the other two days on which he has no employment?—Yes, I do.

17030. How is that making up wages out of the rates?—This man is ostensibly maintaining himself by the wages of his labour; that is the primary source from which he derives his support; those wages are found to be insufficient for his maintenance, recourse is had to the public fund to make up the deficiency, however great or however small that may be.

17031. The labourer having work for only four days in the week, and receiving only four days' wages, if at the end of the four days, what he has received has been expended by him, and necessarily expended by him and his family, has he not a right on the other two days to apply to the parish for relief, and would the parish be justified in refusing him relief?—I think the parish would not be justified in refusing him relief simply because he had had employment during the week; but I think the parish would not be justified in giving him relief without setting him to work.

17032. But you admit that in some way or other the poor man is entitled to relief?—I admit that every man who is in a state of destitution is entitled to relief.

17033. How do you make out that when you give that relief it is making up wages out of the rates?—Because it is making up his weekly wages to the amount which will maintain him.

17034. His rate of wages is not for six but for four days, therefore two days he applies to the parish, and how can you call it making up wages out of the rates, because for those latter two days he receives relief from the parish?—Because the parish gives him relief without demanding work in return.

17035. Why does the parish do that?—I would prevent the parish from doing it.

17036. Would you withhold relief?—I would not.

17037. What then would you do in such a case?—I would relieve the man according to the law; I would set the man to work, and as long as he follows that work he should receive relief.

17038. Then would not that be adopting a course similar to that which you call making up the wages out of the rates?—No; I conceive that I should be giving the man relief in return for labour.

17039. Has the practice ever been to give relief in the Leicester Union, or before the Leicester Union was formed, was it the practice to give relief without furnishing labour at the same time, if there was the ability of doing so?—I apprehend that it was, from what I know of the previous practice.

17040. It has been stated in evidence this morning, that in a former year a parish attempted the employment of the poor out of the rates; are you aware of that fact?—I am aware that it has been done in several parishes.

17041. It has been further stated, that an attempt to employ the poor out of the rates, and to dispose of the produce which they created, led to the reduction of the wages; are you aware of that fact?—Yes, I believe it was stated that it had led to the reduction of wages.

17042. Do you believe that that was the fact?—I believe that it reduced the amount received in the shape of wages.

17043. Then, if that was the fact, how can you, by any rule that you can lay down, give relief out of the rates to those who are destitute, without producing the same effects which it is said were produced when this practice was attempted by the parish?—Because that statement referred to giving them employment of the same nature as that in which it was proved they could not at that moment earn their maintenance, or presumed to be proved.

17044. Then, can the manufacturers, in periods of commercial embarrassment, employ

employ the poor?—Experience shows that they can employ the poor in periods of commercial embarrassment, when the administration of the poor-rate has not tended to interfere with their disposition to give them employment; I believe facts have shown that to be the case.

17045. Then you believe that the manufacturers are to blame because they have not employed the poor in the Leicester Union as they ought to have done during the year 1837; is that so?—I do not wish to cast blame upon any parties at all.

17046. How do you avoid casting blame upon those parties unless you show that they have not the means of employing the poor?—I would rather confine myself to a statement of facts, and leave other persons to draw their inferences from them.

17047. But have you not stated that the manufacturers themselves, from interested motives, require the poor to be relieved, in order that they may make better use of their services in some way or other when they require them?—I do not think I have stated that.

17048. Have you stated at all that the operation of the Poor Law Amendment Act is calculated to give steadier work and higher wages?—Yes, steadier work.

17049. You have also stated that the manufacturers, from the operation of this Act, if carried into full effect, would be disposed to give steadier work; I suppose you mean more constant work?—I presume they will be disposed to do so.

17050. Then you think necessarily that they have the ability to do this if they have only the disposition?—I rely, in giving my opinion (for after all I am being examined upon matters of opinion), upon facts that have occurred in other places; I find, for instance, that in Nottingham there has not been occasion to have recourse to the parish fund, where the strict system of administration is adopted, as there has been in places where the lax system has been adopted; I find in Sheffield the same thing; I find in Stoke-upon-Trent, as I am informed, the same thing; and therefore I infer that the same result would follow the same practice if it were introduced into Leicester, which as yet it has not been.

17051. Have you yourself made inquiry as to what has been the operation in Nottingham, and in Sheffield and in Stoke-upon-Trent?—I have not made personal inquiry.

17052. Then how are you able to speak upon the subject from your own knowledge?—I did not speak from my own knowledge; I said that I was so informed; and I am informed by documents, which I believe are authentic documents.

17053. You have said that where there is strict administration of the Poor Law, it is calculated to secure higher wages than where there is a lax administration of the Poor Law; will you describe to the Committee what you mean by a strict administration and a lax administration?—I mean by a strict administration that which would restrict relief to destitute persons; I mean by a lax administration that which does not use sufficient precaution in restricting the relief only to persons in destitution.

17054. That which would restrict relief to the destitute is the strict administration; by what means do you judge of destitution?—It is in order to determine who are destitute persons, and there foreproper objects for relief, that I think a test indispensably necessary.

17055. What is to be the test of destitution in the Union of Leicester, according to the rule that you would prescribe?—The best test of destitution that I am acquainted with is the workhouse; such is the test which I should wish to see established in the Union of Leicester.

17056. Would you like to see workhouse rooms erected in the Union of Leicester sufficient for the 7,000 persons who could not obtain employment during the last commercial embarrassment?—I certainly never should contemplate the erection in Leicester of a workhouse that would contain 7,000 persons.

17057. But if there were 7,000 persons who could not obtain employment, and who had no means of subsistence but from their employment, would or would not those 7,000 persons be destitute?—It seems to me that I am asked to pronounce whether or not a person in a state of destitution would be destitute.

17058. Then you admit that the 7,000 persons placed under those circumstances would be destitute?—I admit this, that if 7,000 persons had no other resources but wages of labour to depend upon, and could get no wages of labour, they would be then destitute.

17059. Has there been a very great number in the town of Leicester during the last

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last year who could not by the wages of their labour obtain a sufficiency of food, clothing and shelter?—I was informed that there were a great number of persons who were supposed to stand in need of relief in Leicester, and such I found to be the case when I went into Leicester about the middle of the last year.

17060. Those who stood in want of relief you would have had tested by the offer of the workhouse?—Those who were able-bodied I would.

17061. Do you think that applying the workhouse test to persons so circumstanced is calculated to uphold wages?—That question is only asking me to repeat my previous statement; I believe that applying the workhouse test generally would be the means of producing generally a more steady amount of employment.

17062. But if employment could not be found for them by the manufacturers, what steps would they take in order to get what their necessities required?—It is impossible for me to say.

17063. Can you form no opinion upon that?—Perhaps they might turn their hands to some other description of work.

17064. Do you know of any other description of work in the Leicester Union at which the operatives residing there could have found employment during the year 1837?—If they could not have found employment, then it was the business of the parish, no doubt, according to law, to find employment for them.

17065. What would the poor people themselves, in those destitute circumstances, do?—It is impossible for me to say what they would do.

17066. Would their application be to the parish officers for relief?—Probably it would.

17067. And would you recommend that under those circumstances those poor people should have no relief out of the workhouse?—I would recommend that, under all circumstances with which I am acquainted, the applications for relief of able-bodied persons should be tested by an offer of relief in the workhouse.

17068. Then, in order to submit this offer to them, must you not have workhouse rooms prepared for them?—Yes.

17069. Then, supposing there were 7,000 hands so circumstanced in the town of Leicester, would it not be necessary that you should have a workhouse for the 7,000?—I do not think it would; because I have never found it necessary to provide workhouse accommodation for any thing like the number that it was supposed would avail themselves of the offer.

17070. Do you think that the working people would accept the workhouse provided it was offered to them, to any great extent?—I do not think they would if they could do any thing else.

17071. What would they undertake to do in preference to going into the workhouse; would they not submit to work at any wages that any person might offer them rather than accept the workhouse test?—I do not think it follows as a matter of course that they would.

17072. Why does it not follow?—I believe that there is a very great caution on the part of the workmen how they submit to a reduction in the wages of labour; and a great deal of the evidence that has been given here to-day tends to fortify me in that opinion, that to work for a lower than the ordinary rate of remuneration would be an expedient that they would have recourse to with very great reluctance and only under circumstances of extreme difficulty.

17073. But they must either accept the work at such wages as they can obtain for it, or they must accept the offer of the workhouse, and enter into it, or perish; is it not so?—No, it is not so; they must accept work at such wages as will maintain them, or they must accept relief from the parish upon such conditions as the parish chooses to attach to it.

17074. Then, being unwilling to accept work at lower wages than the ordinary rate of wages, and not obtaining those wages, must they not go into the workhouse, or perish?—This is the alternative, either to find work at wages that will maintain them or to go into the workhouse.

17075. Do you believe that the poor people themselves have any control over their wages in periods of commercial embarrassment when their work is not required?—I do not think the poor people can compel their masters to give them more than they can afford to give.

17076. Then, must they not take the work at such wages as the masters offer it at?—The question is simply this, whether they shall obtain wages upon which they can subsist, or whether they shall obtain relief upon which they can subsist.

17077. They

17077. They are, then, bound to accept a reduction of wages or to go into the workhouse; is that it?—It does not appear to me that there must be necessarily a reduction of wages; I say that they must obtain wages upon which they can subsist, or they must accept relief.

17078. Does it not appear to you that any manufacturer in the town of Leicester, when work is scarce; may reduce his wages, and bring the whole of the manufacturers to the same rate which he himself offers?—A reduction of that kind would seem to me, if the workmen went on subsisting upon the wages so reduced, to show that the wages before were more than were absolutely necessary for their subsistence.

17079. But, supposing them not to have been more than was necessary for their subsistence, and a period of depression arose under those circumstances, might not any one manufacturer reduce the whole of the wages of the manufacturers of the town of Leicester, under those circumstances?—If the men accepted such reduced wages, and lived upon them, that would show that a person could subsist upon less than he could subsist upon; which is an absurdity in terms.

17080. Have you ever, in your experience, made an estimate of what a poor man, with a wife and four children, can subsist upon?—No, I have never been able to arrive at that.

17081. Have you any opinion upon the question, or have you ever made it a subject of inquiry at all, what ought to be the amount of wages for a poor man, with a wife and four children, to subsist upon?—I have frequently made it a subject of inquiry and a subject of conversation.

17082. What has been the result of those conversations and of that inquiry?—The result of the information that I have received is such that I can form no opinion whatever upon it in any individual case.

17083. You do not know what the wages ought to be, in order that a person may maintain his family, a wife and four children?—No.

17084. But supposing you could find out that point, the lowest possible remuneration on which a man, with a wife and four children, could subsist, and a period of commercial embarrassment ensues when employment cannot be had, would that man submit to a lower rates of wages than even that, rather than go into the workhouse?—You suppose, in the first instance, a rate of wages at which he can barely subsist; then, I suppose, of course, that he would not submit to a lower rate of wages, but would go into the workhouse.

17085. You do not believe, then, that any man will submit to starve himself and his family for a time rather than accept the workhouse?—I should think such a case exceedingly improbable.

17086. Have there been any cases in the Leicester Union where men have suffered very great privations indeed, and suffered want, because their earnings were inadequate for their support, rather than go into the workhouse?—I should think not, because I do not think in the Leicester Union the alternative has been offered them of going into the workhouse.

17087. But supposing that two alternatives were offered, one to accept less wages than would maintain them, the other to go into the workhouse, what would be the conduct of those employed in the trade of Leicester, under those circumstances?—That is a hypothetical case, and I think the result would depend very much upon the temper of the person to whom the alternative was offered.

17088. Do you think that such a state of things would be calculated to lead to an increase of crime, that men, rather than go into the workhouse, would have recourse to thieving and committing depredations which might get them into a different prison from that of the workhouse?—I do not think myself that that disposition has been apparent yet in places with which I am more conversant than the town of Leicester.

17089. You say that in the town of Leicester the experiment has not been tried?—It has not.

17090. Then you do not know what would be the effect of carrying out such an experiment?—I can only infer, from what I know to have been the effect in other places, what would probably be the effects in Leicester.

17091. But not knowing what would be the effects, you recommend that as being the best mode of testing the destitution of applicants for relief?—There are

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very few recommendations that could be made, with an absolute certainty as to the effects that would be produced.

17092. *Chairman.*] A great many questions have been put to you with regard to the number of 7,000 persons requiring relief; in the case of any parties requiring relief, even where the strictest rule prevails, does not the proportion receiving out-door relief very much exceed those receiving relief in-doors?—In the strictest unions within my district (and I believe they are as strict as those in other districts), about one in five receives relief in the workhouse; for one receiving relief in the workhouse four receive relief out of it.

17093. You say, that if a person has only four days' work, and has relief for the two other days of the week from the parish, you would make work a condition of that relief?—Yes.

17094. Do you consider that indispensable?—Yes.

17095. Was it the practice to give relief without work?—Yes, I apprehend it to have been.

17096. Do you apprehend it to have been the practice in that part of England?—Yes.

17097. Do not you consider that the practice of giving relief, upon the application of the party, without work, must have the effect of producing an indisposition to look for work of any description?—I do.

17098. Do you consider that to be very prejudicial to the interests of the community?—Yes.

17099. Do not you think that any thing that operates upon the minds of the labouring class to lead them to have recourse to any means of support rather than work, is likely to impair their industry, and to be prejudicial to their interests?—I do not see how it can be doubted.

17100. Therefore, looking solely to the interests of the labouring class, do not you think it desirable that such an administration of relief should take place as to make work the condition of relief?—I do.

17101. It has been said that the work upon stone-breaking, or the work upon roads, or any description of agricultural employment, is little suited to the habits of persons who have been manufacturers all their lives; would you recommend any description of work which would impair the strength or injure the health of the poor?—No.

17102. Have you reason to suppose that any of those descriptions of work which have been occasionally offered had had the effect of injuring the health or impairing the strength of the poor?—No, I have no reason to believe that.

17103. Have you ever heard of that?—I have heard that at Leicester, when they began to work in the stone-yard, there was a representation from the medical man that some of them might incur injury by being set to such work, and I believe the guardians immediately attended to the suggestion of the medical man, and excluded from their arrangement those who were weak or sickly.

17104. And you believe that that arrangement would take place in any union under the Poor Law Act?—There is no doubt of it.

17105. In times of depression of trade, in the case of a great population like Leicester or any great manufacturing town, where it would be impossible to apply any workhouse test to the whole of those who applied for relief, would you propose the substitution of some subsidiary test, such as an out-door labour test?—Yes; I think those are extraordinary occasions, for which an extraordinary provision should be made.

17106. Do not you think that, by the establishment constructed under the Poor Law Amendment Act, you have the means of superintending an out-door labour test of that description, and of carrying it into effect much better than you can do in the separate parochial districts?—No doubt.

17107. Mr. *Miles.*] With respect to any reduction of wages that has taken place in the last year or year and a half, can that be attributed to the administration of the Poor Law?—I should say not.

17108. Must not the rate of wages depend entirely upon the supply and demand for labour?—Under ordinary circumstances, it does; but there are causes which may disturb the natural operation of the principle of supply and demand, as we have seen in the agricultural districts.

17109. Does not the supply and demand generally affect the price of labour?—Certainly.

17110. Is it not more safe to look to that as the universal test of the price of labour, than to attribute to any particular cause the immediate depression or rise of wages?—I think that it is more safe to depend upon that, certainly, than upon any speculations.

17111. *Chairman.*] Something has been said about the poor at Leicester not being able to obtain coffins; do you know any thing of that?—No, I do not.

17112. (To Mr. *Rawson.*)—You made some statement with reference to the difficulty which the poor had in procuring coffins?—I was asked whether, in my opinion, the operation of the Poor Law had increased common begging, and I stated that, in consequence of the refusal of the overseers to furnish coffins for children, and I may add for wives too, begging, in order to procure coffins, had increased since the new law.

17113. Do you mean that the board of guardians refused to provide coffins for persons who were not in a condition to provide them themselves?—As a proof that they were not in a condition I state that they were obliged to go and beg.

17114. Do you know that they had applied to the board?—I was informed that they had, and had been refused.

17115. What is the practice now?—I think it is altered now.

17116. You think that the board of guardians now do provide coffins?—Yes.

17117. (To Mr. *Swain.*)—In answer to a previous question, you said that you thought some test necessary in order to distinguish imposition from real destitution?—Certainly I did.

17118. What description of test would you suggest?—Any test which would not injure the man.

17119. Which would not impair his strength, or be injurious to his health?—Yes, as far as it is consistent with human nature and the laws of God; the separation of man and wife, according as I read the Bible, I believe to be cruel, and contrary to his written word; but I do not mean that relief should be given to a man who does not use his best exertions to maintain his wife and family.

17120. What test would you suggest?—The test of character; I should say to the man who applied, if I were a guardian, "For whom do you work?" and having obtained that information, and the persons connected with him, I should ask him, "What is the reason you have no work; have you differed with your master; cannot he find you employment?" and then I should go to the master for the necessary information, and perhaps in the neighbourhood; there are runners that might be employed to make those inquiries; and after I found that the man was necessitated to come to me, and there was no blame in himself, I should say that temporary relief should be given to him.

17121. Having ascertained that the man was out of work from no fault of his own, you would give him some relief?—Yes.

17122. Would you give that relief in money, without requiring work in return for it?—Not if I could find work such as would not injure the man.

17123. Therefore supposing the man came to you for relief, in the circumstances you have stated, you would give him relief, but you would annex to that relief a condition that he should work, not in a manner injurious to his health?—Yes.

17124. Giving him relief for work, and that work being of a description not likely to affect his health, would you place the remuneration for that work at a price above the ordinary wages of the man when in his general employment?—Certainly not.

17125. You would wish that labour to act as an inducement to the man to look out for further employment, and to be a test to ascertain whether his destitution were real or pretended?—Certainly.

17126. Would you place the remuneration for his labour below the ordinary rate of wages of a fully employed labourer?—I should say that you must not place it much below the remuneration of the stocking-makers; the man would not be able to subsist at all; it would be almost a test to put a man to the stocking trade, as things have been going on.

17127. But you would not let it exceed the amount of remuneration for his ordinary employment?—No.

17128. Would you put it a little below the amount of remuneration for his ordinary employment, supposing that amount was sufficient to enable him to

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maintain his family?—So long as it was sufficient to enable him to maintain his family, I should say that it would be an inducement to him to seek for work in his own occupation.

17129. And that you would think to be a most desirable result?—Yes.

[*The Witness delivered in the following Paper:*]

LEICESTER UNION.

STATEMENT of the TOTAL EXPENDITURE of the under-mentioned PARISHES in this UNION, for the several Periods mentioned below; viz.

	1825–26. From Christmas to Christmas.	1832–33. From Midsummer to Midsummer.	1836–37. From Christmas to Christmas.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
St. Margaret - - - -	8,713 19 7	9,577 1 11	7,453 - 4
St. Martin - - - -	3,584 3 2	2,848 1 3	2,510 3 -
St. Mary - - - -	3,719 12 10	3,043 13 -	3,356 15 5
All Saints - - - -	1,988 14 6	1,565 12 11	1,699 6 9
St. Nicholas - - - -	1,279 16 7	1,089 8 6	644 18 9
TOTAL - - -	19,286 6 8	18,123 17 7	15,664 4 3

Martis, 3° *die Julii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Baines. | Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Hodges. | Mr. Fielden.

MR. MILES, IN THE CHAIR.

Dr. *Kay*, called in; and Examined.

Dr. *Kay*.
3 July 1838.

17130. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you have some returns to put in?—Yes; I have some returns to put in relative to the increase of steam power in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and their immediate vicinity, which were called for by the Committee some time ago, in reference to a previous return that I had furnished to the Poor Law Commissioners. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the returns, which will account for the delay that has occurred in presenting them to the Committee.

17131. Be good enough to hand them in?—[*The Witness handed them in accordingly.*—Vide *Appendix*, No. 2.]

Appendix, p. 46.

17132. Have you any further observation to make in reference to them?—No.

17133. Mr. *Baines.*] Are these returns confined entirely to Lancashire?—Yes, they are confined entirely to Lancashire and the immediate vicinity; in point of fact, to those towns and neighbourhoods from which previous returns were obtained.

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Clergy, Merchants, Bankers, Manufacturers and other Inhabitants of the town of Leicester;

Appendix.

Petition of the Clergy, &c., of Leicester.

Sheweth,—That your petitioners have read, with surprise and alarm, the evidence of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioners, given before the Select Committee of your Honourable House, appointed to inquire into the administration of the relief of the poor, under the orders and regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act. And your petitioners desire briefly to call the attention of your Honourable House to various parts of their testimony, which are asserted to be grounded on the experience of the operation of the Poor Laws in the manufacturing districts, but more especially in the towns of Nottingham and Leicester, in the latter of which places your petitioners have had extensive and constant opportunities of observation, and which testimony they know to be at variance with fact, and based upon mistaken and insufficient information.

That the portions of the testimony aforesaid to which your petitioners refer are contained in the evidence given by Mr. Gulson, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, on the 7th day of February 1838, and ordered to be printed by your Honourable House, commencing at question, No. 80, and including No. 136, in which it is distinctly stated to your Committee, that paupers requiring parochial relief, and obliged to enter the workhouse, are not compelled to sell or otherwise dispose of their furniture, implements of trade or any thing useful to them, before they can avail themselves of the proffered relief; that no case of that description ever came within the knowledge of the witness; that he never knew such instances to exist, and that he does not believe they do exist; and further, that on breaking up their household establishments to go into the workhouse, the paupers retain their houses and furniture, to which they can return on their again coming out. Now, your petitioners humbly submit to your Honourable House, that such evidence is entirely inconsistent with fact, and contrary to all reason and probability. That all experience has proved that the workhouse is never accepted but as a last resource by the indigent, after their furniture had been already disposed of, to meet the exigencies of their existence. That in Leicester the principal occupation of the working classes consists in manufacturing stockings, by frame-work knitting; that the stocking-frame is the property of the employer, and not of the operative, and cannot be sold; and that the practice is utterly unknown, and has never prevailed in Leicester, of the paupers reserving their furniture and houses until they are able to leave the workhouse; and that your petitioners, knowing the testimony given before the said Select Committee, in these respects, to be entirely fallacious and erroneous, contemplate with horror and great dread any system of legislation founded upon such evidence.

That further portions of the testimony to which your petitioners refer as aforesaid, are contained in the evidence of Mr. Hall, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, taken before the said Committee, on the 22d day of February 1838, and ordered to be printed by your Honourable House, numbered from question 2179 to 2188, inclusive; in that evidence it is made to appear, that the proceedings adopted by the Commissioners were calculated to meet the temporary difficulties in reference to the paupers of the Hinckley Union, residing in Leicester; whereas, in fact, such difficulties had been previously met and surmounted, and the relief so afforded was interrupted by a direct order from Mr. Stevens, an Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, which prohibited relief out of the union, to the great hardship and inconvenience of the paupers themselves, and at a great cost and expenditure to the parishes of the Leicester Union, caused by procuring orders from the magistrates for the removal of the poor belonging to other unions, so much so, that one parish alone paid nearly 90*l.* in fees to the town-clerk for such orders. But the system of relief prescribed by the order of Mr. Stevens was found to be so highly inexpedient, and would have been attended with such fearful consequences to the paupers, and so large an increase of expense to the unions, that it became necessary to abandon their injudicious experiment, and revert to the mode in which relief had formerly been administered, while in the evidence given before your Committee it is made to appear, that all the merit due to the re-adoption of such former usage originated with the Commissioners, and the fact of their costly experiment and its failure is entirely suppressed.

That in the testimony of Mr. Hall, above referred to, at the question numbered 2195, a statement will be found setting forth certain alleged facts in reference to a village denominated "B——" contiguous to Hinckley, which is intended to convey to your Honourable House the impression that a great benefit has been conferred upon the paupers and the

Appendix.

Petition of the Clergy, &c. of Leicester,

parish by the introduction of the new system. Now your petitioners believe that the village of Burbage is the place alluded to by the witness, as no other parish contiguous to Hinckley could by any possibility be meant; and as regards the assertion made by the witness before your Committee, that the whole of the money forwarded for the use of the paupers was spent before the parties left the public-house at which they received it, your petitioners are able to prove that it is a direct mis-statement and utterly untrue, and that not one farthing of the money was spent at the public-house where the paupers received their relief, nor was the carrier that brought it, or the other party alluded to, ever treated by them, as alleged in the evidence given before the said Committee.

That the answer to the question numbered 2253 in the evidence last referred to is calculated to deceive your Honourable House, and is, in fact, an evasion of the inquiry made by Mr. Miles, a member of the said Select Committee of your Honourable House; inasmuch as on reference to question numbered 2076, your Honourable House will perceive that the witness left Leicester in 1837 in the month of August, a month during which there is always abundance of employment to be obtained in Leicester, but during the previous months no less than from six to seven thousand paupers were relieved, as may be ascertained by the returns made to the Poor Law Commissioners. Now your petitioners humbly submit that the workhouse for the Leicester Union, now building under the direction of the Commissioners, is calculated to hold no more than 680 inmates, and therefore it is utterly impossible that the workhouse test can ever be applied during such depressions of trade as constantly occur in this town at certain periods of the year. And further, your petitioners humbly represent to your Honourable House, that near as Leicester is situated to the granite rocks, and great as the demand for broken granite is asserted to be by the witness, the labour test to which he alludes has been altogether abandoned, on account of the ruinous loss it occasioned to the union.

That while your petitioners feel that it is impossible to allude to all the inaccuracies and mis-statements that have been tendered as evidence before your Committee in support of the new Poor Laws, they cannot omit to enable your Honourable House to contrast the various statements of the last-mentioned witness, commencing at question 2364, with the fact, that in the large manufacturing town of Leicester 101 women are now receiving relief on behalf of their bastard children under the operation of the old law, and that out of that number only five instances can be found of mothers receiving relief for more than one such child. Your Honourable House will be able to judge from this fact how great is the exaggeration of the abuses under the old system.

That your petitioners believe that the tests which are deemed so important a feature in the new Poor Law system, but which your petitioners know to be utterly impracticable, have originated in an erroneous impression that the labourer is able to earn such an amount of wages at one period as would enable him to lay by a sufficient sum of money to meet the contingencies of a depressed trade. Your petitioners, have, therefore, made diligent inquiries into, and from their position have readily ascertained the rate of wages since the new system has been brought into operation in Leicester, and they have found that during the year 1836 the average earnings of the frame-work knitters amounted, after deducting the expenses incident to his work, to no more than 9 *s.* a week when fully employed, whereas at the present time, their wages, if they could obtain full employment, would not average more than 7 *s.* a week; but the greater part of the workmen being upon half or quarter work, the average of what they really receive is not, in fact, more than 5 *s.* per week. And your petitioners have ascertained, that so far from the new law having a tendency to procure better wages and steadier employment for the operatives, as stated in the evidence of the witness Mr. Hall, so great is the horror and detestation with which they regard the hardships and privations of the workhouse, that the operatives of Leicester do actually accept work on any terms they can procure, and there is a proportional tendency to depress the rate of wages still further, and render the condition of the operatives far worse than it was before the introduction of the new Poor Laws.

That, contrary to the evidence given before the Committee of your Honourable House, the labourers within the agricultural and manufacturing districts are, without exception, so discontented with the severities of the workhouse regulations which have emanated from the Poor Law Commissioners, and so opposed to the inconsiderate and ill-advised details of the new system, that they prefer any alternative to the provisions of the new law. And your petitioners verily believe that the alarming increase of crime which is shown by the returns made to your Honourable House, is to be attributed to the dread of the workhouse, which urges the pauper to theft, and indigent females to prostitution, as the only means in their power for avoiding the hardships and privations rendered necessary by the workhouse test.

That many of your petitioners, both from the extent of their own knowledge and experience as manufacturers, merchants and others, connected more or less with the staple trade of Leicester, and from the diligent inquiries which they have caused to be made, are prepared with ample evidence to substantiate the allegations of their petition, and to contradict many important portions of the evidence which has been given before your Committee with respect to Leicester and its operatives, to which they have strictly confined their observation, without in any way adverting to the agricultural districts; but at the same time it is humbly submitted to your Honourable House, that a great distinction exists, and should be made, between the labourer in a rural district and the manufacturing operative, the demand

demand for the labour of the farmer being universal, and of late much increased by the greater attention now paid to agriculture, and the employment afforded by the works on the various railroads now in progress in this country, while the operative, necessarily confined to the spot where his trade is carried on, is unable to obtain employment in other manufacturing districts, from the difference in the character of the manufacture, and he is utterly unfit for field labour, which it is physically impossible he can long endure. And it is further submitted, that if such operative be forced to labour at the stone heap, his life must prove a life of suffering, and from the character of his former employment, it is feared will tend to create a fearful mortality.

That in conclusion, your petitioners venture to submit to your Honourable House that the system of centralization upon which the Poor Laws are based, is diametrically opposed in spirit, and, in fact, to the constitution and established usages of this country. That the right to dispose of his rates by means of his representatives has always been the privilege of the British rate-payer, of which he is most unjustly and unnecessarily deprived by the Act passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of his late Majesty William the Fourth, intituled, "An Act for the amendment and better administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales," which privilege is thereby invested in certain irresponsible Commissioners, with great and undefined power hitherto altogether unknown in the management of the local affairs of this kingdom; while your petitioners humbly submit that an Act of Parliament, enabling parishes to administer their own affairs by means of parochial vestries, with some provision for the protection of the poor, would fully have accomplished all the improvement which the old law required, and attained far greater benefits than can possibly be derived under the present objectionable system.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your Honourable House that they may be permitted to offer, at the bar of your Honourable House, or before the said Select Committee, evidence of the truth of these their allegations, and of the fallacies and misrepresentations contained in the minutes of evidence to which they have referred. And your petitioners further implore your Honourable House, that such modifications and alterations may be made in the existing Poor Laws as may render them consistent with justice and mercy, consistent with the necessities of the labouring population, and with the true interests of the country:—particularly that the workhouse test of destitution, as now applied by the Commissioners, may be utterly repealed and annulled; that the powers and authority of the Poor Law Commissioners and their assistants may cease and determine; and that all matters relating to the administration of parochial relief and the employment of the destitute poor, may, in accordance with the inherited liberties and immemorial customs of the people of this realm, be regulated by known and certain laws, enacted by the authority of Parliament, and not by the arbitrary mandates of irresponsible individuals.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Appendix, No. 2.

STATEMENT of the Increase of STEAM POWER which it was expected would occur in Two Years succeeding July 1835, in the Districts enumerated below;—extracted from Dr. Kay's Report of July 1835.

Name of TOWN, TOWNSHIP or PARISH, which forms the Centre of the District so called.	NUMBER of HORSE POWER.
Township of Hyde	486
Ashton and Dukinfield	640
Stayleybridge	606
Saddleworth (Greenfield)	60
Stockport	936
Rochdale (district)	660
Heywood	78
Spotland	50
Bagslate	60
Birch	10
Accrington	50
Bolton (district)	755
Leigh	50
Horwich	175
Wigan	325
Bury	120
Haslingden	70
Burnley	241
Bacup (district)	196
Todmorden	285
Colne	100
Preston	422
Longdendale, near Mottram	70
Blackburn	280
Chorley	60
Bollington, near Macclesfield	80
Glossop Dale	187
Manchester	395
Oldham	60
TOTAL Horse-power	7,507

SUMMARY of RETURNS obtained in pursuance of the Order of the SELECT COMMITTEE on the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT, exhibiting the Increase of STEAM POWER which has occurred since 1835, and the Amount of HORSE POWER of Steam now in course of erection in certain Districts of *Lancashire*, and its immediate Vicinity.

NAME OF DISTRICT.	Number of Horse-power erected in each District since January or July 1835.	Number of Horse-power now in course of erection in each District.
Hyde	499	230
Ashton, Dukinfield, &c.	838	373
Stayleybridge	720	82
Saddleworth	140	„
Stockport	826	60
Rochdale	1,630	96
Heywood	289	40
*Spotland	„	„
*Bagslate	„	„
*Birch	„	„
Accrington	180	„
Bolton	1,149	667
*Leigh	„	„
*Horwich	„	„
Wigan	671	„
Bury	639	166
Haslingden	160	16
Burnley	933	84
Bacup	202	209
Todmorden	127	247
Colne	242	130
Preston	658	368
†Longdendale	40	„
Blackburn	905	211
Chorley	60	„
Macclesfield	140	„
Glossop	182	„
Manchester	1,316	1,058
Oldham	636	74
Clitheroe	14	36
Lancaster	30	40
TOTAL Horse-power	13,226	4,187

* In the present returns these small districts are placed under the name of the larger places in the vicinity of which they are severally situated.

† The residue of the power included under the head "Longdendale" in the former list, will be found in the present returns in the Glossop list. The party from whom Dr. Kay originally received his information with respect to this District, confirms his former statement, but considers that he would not be justified in allowing the names of parties to be published; the various engines of which this amount of 40 horse-power is composed do not therefore appear in the body of this return.

THE annexed returns consist, to a large extent, of information afforded in answer to a letter from Dr. Kay, requesting that he might be permitted to make use of the statements which he received in July 1835, respecting the probable increase of steam power in two years from that date.

As the Commissioners' circular, issued in pursuance of the order of the Committee, was about the same period sent to the same individuals, answers were generally received to both letters; but frequently the return containing the information sought was made in a tabular form, which accompanied the Commissioners' letter. Two columns in each of the returns distinguish (implied by ,,) in which of these forms the information was received.

Great care has been taken to avoid a double enumeration of any engine; but as the information was derived from many sources, the names of firms and places may have been so described, in some instances, as to lead to an erroneous inference that the horse-power returned belonged to different firms. If any such instances have escaped observation, it is hoped that they cannot exceed half a dozen at the utmost.

TOWNSHIP of HYDE and NEIGHBOURHOOD

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
Ashton, Thomas, Esq., Hyde	Hibbert Randall	Godly
Ditto	Thorneley, A. W.	ditto
Ditto	Ashton, Thomas	Hyde
Ditto	Ashton, Samuel	Werneth
Ditto	Ashton, James	Newton
Ditto	Wharneby, John	Hyde
Ditto	Howard, John	
Ditto	Christie, Messrs.	Fairfield
	In course of Erection.	
Thomas Ashton, Esq.	Shepley, S.	Marple
Ditto	Walmsley	ditto
Ditto	Heyworth, & Co.	Romiley
Ditto	Sidebotham, John	

ASHTON, DUKINFIELD, and NEIGHBOURHOOD

D. Cheetham, Esq., Stayleybridge, Mr. Fairburn (90)	Ashton, John & Robert	Dukinfield
Ditto ditto (100)	Hyde, T., Sons & Sowerby	ditto
Ditto ditto (100)	Whittaker & Brothers	Ashton-under-Lyne
Ditto ditto (220)	Lees, Nathan, & Brothers	ditto
Ditto ditto (130)	Reyner, Thomas, & Sons	ditto
Ditto Mr. Petrie (40)	Higginbottom, S., & Sons	ditto
Ditto	Bancroft	Bardsley
Ditto	Christies	Openshaw
B. Hick, Esq., Bolton	Robinson & Armitage	Dukinfield
D. Cheetham, Esq.	Ousey, Ralph	Heyrod
Ditto	Ollerenshaw, J., & Brothers	Openshaw
	In course of Erection.	
D. Cheetham, Esq. R. Walker & Co. (80)	Reyner, Thomas, & Sons	Ashton-under-Lyne
Ditto	Winepenny & Co.	Dukinfield
J. Petrie, Esq.	Swires & Lees	ditto
B. Hick, Esq,	Southam & Brothers	Ashton-under-Lyne
Ditto	Kenworthy & Brothers	ditto

Township of HYDE and Neighbourhood.

Horse Power.	To what description of manufacture applied.	In answer to Circular inquiring what increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	Remarks.
36	Cotton Manufacture	„	„	
60	ditto	„	„	
100	ditto	„	„	
76	ditto	„	„	
72	ditto	„	„	
35	ditto	„	„	
20	ditto	„		
100	ditto	„		
499				
100	Cotton manufacture.			
30	ditto.			
70	ditto.			
30	ditto.			
230				

ASHTON, DUKINFIELD, and Neighbourhood.

90	Cotton-spinning and weaving		„	
100	ditto		„	
100	ditto		„	two-thirds only yet working.
200	ditto		„	only yet working 100 H. P.
130	ditto		„	
42	ditto		„	only part weighted.
20	Cotton-spinning only		„	
80	Cotton-spinning and weaving		„	
15	Cotton-spinning		„	
35	ditto	„		water-wheel.
26	Cotton-spinning and weaving		„	
838				
80	Cotton-spinning and weaving.			
45	Cotton-spinning.			
48	Colliery.			
80	Cotton-spinning.			
120	Lifting water from a coal mine.			
373				

STAYLEYBRIDGE and Neighbourhood.

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
David Cheetham, esq., Stayleybridge - Mr. Hick (60).	Adshead, James, & Brothers	Stayleybridge
Ditto	Platt, Robert	ditto
Ditto	Sidebotham, Edward	ditto
Ditto	Cheetham, Geo., & Son	ditto
Ditto	Harrison, Thos., & Sons	ditto
Ditto	Bayley, Wm., & Brothers	ditto
Ditto	Lees, Jeremiah & John	ditto
Ditto	Buckley, John	Mossley
Ditto	Andrews, J. & Frank	ditto
Ditto	Kershaw, Charles	ditto
Ditto	Andrew, G. & M.	ditto
Ditto	Buckley, N., & Sons	ditto
Ditto	Mayall, G. & F.	Bottoms, near Mossley
	In course of Erection.	
David Cheetham, esq.	Buckley, James	Mossley
Ditto	Shaw, Peter	ditto
Ditto	Andrew, Mark	ditto

SADDLEWORTH and Neighbourhood.

David Cheetham, esq.	Buckley, F. & R.	Greenfield, Saddleworth
Ditto	Bottomley, J.	ditto ditto
Ditto	Lees, John	Millbottom ditto
Ditto	Andrew & Booth	Lees ditto

STOCKPORT and Neighbourhood.

Henry Coppock, esq., Stockport	Marshall, James & Sons	Bennington
Ditto	Howard, W., & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Lane & Co.	Newbridge-lane & Hilgate
Ditto	Clayton, J. S.	Park-street
Ditto	Walmisley, J. & W.	Lancashire-hill
Ditto	Brown & Powell	Heaton-lane
Ditto	Smith, William	ditto
Ditto	Heawood, Joseph	Brinksway
Ditto	Shaw	ditto
Ditto	Fernley, Thomas	Chestergate
Ditto	Marsland, Thomas, & Co.	
Ditto	Moseley, Thomas	Hazelgrove
Ditto	Walmisley, Charles	Marple
Ditto	Shipley	ditto
Ditto	Bradshaw, W. & J.	Stockport
Ditto - Rd. Walker & Co. (16).	Ratcliffe, John	
B. Hick, esq., Bolton	Sykes, Richard	Edgeley
	In course of Erection.	
Rd. Walker & Co., Bury	Heyworth, Bulley & Co.	Near Stockport

ROCHDALE and Neighbourhood.

David Cheetham, esq. - Mr. Petrie (20). Mr. Chadwick (15).	Crossley, Robert	Lower-place, Rochdale
Ditto	Brierly & Wood	Canal-bridge, ditto
Ditto - Walker & Co. (40). Mr. Munn (60). Mr. Chadwick (60).	Sutcliffe & Butterworth	Will-field ditto
Ditto	Butterworth & Brown	Oldham-road ditto
Ditto - Mr. Chadwick (60).	Hoyle	ditto ditto
Ditto - Mr. Hick (40). Mr. Munn (40). Mr. Chadwick (40).	Kelsall, Chadwick & Co.	ditto ditto
Ditto - Mr. Munn (120). Mr. Chadwick (100).	Pilling and Brierley	Holland-street

STAYLEYBRIDGE and Neighbourhood.

Horse Power.	TO WHAT DESCRIPTION of MANUFACTURE APPLIED.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	REMARKS.
60	Cotton spinning	-	,,	
40	ditto	-	,,	
20	ditto	-	,,	
120	Cotton spinning and weaving	-	,,	
30	ditto	-	,,	
200	ditto	-	,,	Only yet working 100 h. p.
60	Cotton spinning only	-	,,	Only two-thirds weighted.
30	ditto	-	,,	
30	ditto	-	,,	Just set to work.
30	ditto	-	,,	
30	ditto	-	,,	
30	Cotton spinning and weaving	-	,,	Additional.
40	Cotton spinning only	-	,,	
720				
26	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
30	ditto.			
26	ditto.			
82				

SADDLEWORTH and Neighbourhood.

40	Cotton spinning and weaving	-	,,	
40	Wool ditto	-	,,	
40	Cotton ditto	-	,,	
20	ditto ditto	-	,,	
140				

STOCKPORT and Neighbourhood.

110	Cotton spinning and manufacturing	-	,,	
110	ditto	-	,,	
100	ditto	-	,,	
10	ditto	-	,,	
40	ditto	-	,,	
35	ditto	-	,,	
60	ditto	-	,,	
30	ditto	-	,,	
20	ditto	-	,,	
55	ditto	-	,,	
30	ditto	-	,,	
55	ditto	-	,,	
30	ditto	-	,,	
45	ditto	-	,,	
40	ditto	-	,,	
16	Silk dyeing	-	,,	
40	Bleaching cotton	-	,,	
826				
60	Cotton spinning.			

ROCHDALE and Neighbourhood.

	Cotton	-	,,	
	ditto	-	,,	
300	ditto	-	,,	
	ditto	-	,,	
	ditto	-	,,	
	ditto	-	,,	
140	ditto	-	,,	

ROCHDALE and NEIGHBOURHOOD—*continued.*

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
David Cheetham, esq.	Howorth, Edward	Burnchapel, Rochdale
Ditto - Mr. Munn (40). Mr. Chadwick (40).	Barlow, William	Housebottom, ditto
Ditto - Mr. Petrie (40). Mr. Munn (40). Mr Chadwick (40).	Butterworth, John	How Hall - ditto
Ditto - Mr. Munn (60). Mr. Chadwick (60).	Bright, Jacob	Cronkey Shore, ditto
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Munn (20).	Hastings & Co.	Healy Stones - ditto
Ditto - Mr. Petrie (40). Mr. Munn (40). Mr. Chadwick (40).	Lomax, Samuel	Wall Mill - ditto
William Chadwick, esq., Rochdale	Schenks	
Ditto	Scholfield, J. & B.	
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Munn (16).	Lord, Edmund	Small-bridge
Ditto	Hardman & Hoyle	
Ditto	Whitaker, J.	
Ditto - Mr. Petrie (40). Mr. Munn (40).	Whitworth, W.	Facit
Ditto - Mr. Petrie (20). Mr. Munn (20).	Procter, James	Mill-street
Ditto - R. Walker & Co. (55). Mr. Munn (50).	Chadwick, William, & Co.	Bowling-green
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Munn (80).	Kelsal & Bartleman	
Ditto	Howarth, Howarth	
Ditto - R. Walker & Co. (30). Mr. Munn (30).	Howard, H. & E.	Cheetham-street
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Munn (30).	Howarth, G.	Castleton Lower Mill
Robert Munn, esq., Rochdale	Rostron, Ralph	Mill-bridge
Ditto - - Richard Walker & Co. (16).	Haigh, Charles	Broadley
Ditto	Holland, Thomas	Tunacliffe
Ditto - - Richard Walker & Co. (30).	Tweedales	Broadley
Ditto	Leach, Tweedale & Co.	Healey Hall
Ditto	Pilkington, John	Foot-mill
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Petrie (12).	Earnshaw & Lord	Shaw Clough
Ditto	Rhodes, John, & Brothers	Clegg Hall
Ditto	Turner, James, & Co.	Townhead Mill
Ditto	Whitworth, John	Hamer Mill
Ditto	Worrall & Shaw	Holland-street
Ditto	Livesey, J., & Co.	Oldham-road
Ditto	Benekie, W., & Co.	Belfield
Ditto	Mills, James	Top-o'-the-hills
Robert Munn, esq., Rochdale - Mr. Petrie (10).	Barnes, J., & Co.	Milnrow
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Petrie (40).	Ashworth, Richard	Coupe
John Petrie, esq.	Sidebottom, Alfred	Two-bridges, near Milnrow
Ditto	Walker, Thomas	Rochdale
Ditto	Cheetham, J. & J.	Spotland, near Rochdale
Ditto	Greenwood, Frederick	Rochdale
Ditto	Shepherd, Edward	Coal-bank
Ditto	Ashworth, James	Dob-wheel
Richard Walker & Co., Bury	Knight, Samuel	near Rochdale
	In course of Erection.	
B. Hick, esq.	Kelsal & Bartleman	Rochdale
Richard Walker & Co.	Healey, Robert	near Rochdale
Ditto	Butterworth, Thomas	- ditto

HEYWOOD and NEIGHBOURHOOD

Messrs. R. Kershaw & R. Ewbank - Mr. Petrie (30).	Hargreaves, John	Heywood
Ditto	Warburton, William, & Co.	Meadowcroft
Ditto	Greenhalgh, Andel	Wash-lodge
Ditto	Mills, James	Heywood
Ditto - - - - Mr. Hick (40).	Kay, Richard	- ditto
Ditto - - Richard Walker & Co. (30).	Smith, Isaac, & Sons	- ditto
Ditto - - - - Mr. Hick (40).	Kay, John, & Co.	- ditto
Ditto	Harrison & Brothers	- ditto
Ditto	Collinge, Jonathan	Wam
Ditto - - - - Mr. Hick (30).	Taylor, Edmund	Heywood
Ditto	Grundys, J. & E.	Heap-bridge
	In course of Erection.	
Messrs. Kershaw & Ewbank	Chadwick & Diggles	Heywood

ROCHDALE and Neighbourhood—*continued.*

Horse Power.	To what description of manufacture applied.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	Remarks.
130	Cotton - ditto - ditto	- ,,	- ,,	about 25 horse-power occupied.
120	- ditto	- ,,	- ,,	burnt down, 10 April 1838.
90	- ditto - ditto	- ,,	- ,,	
25	Print-work	,,		
60		,,		
20	Cotton spinning	,,		
20		,,		
20	Woollen	,,		
40	Cotton spinning	,,		about 2-3ds of the power occupied.
20	Cotton	,,		15 horse occupied.
55	Cotton spinning	,,		
80	Woollen	,,		
15		,,		
30	Cotton spinning	,,		
20	Cotton	,,		
30	Cotton spinning and weaving	-	- ,,	
20	- ditto	-	- ,,	
10	Woollen	-	- ,,	
30	Woollen and cotton	-	- ,,	
30	Woollen	-	- ,,	
20	Cotton spinning	-	- ,,	
12	Woollen carding and weaving	-	- ,,	
20	Cotton-spinning	-	- ,,	
16	- ditto	-	- ,,	
16	- ditto	-	- ,,	
8	Spindle makers	-	- ,,	
60	Cotton spinning	-	- ,,	
25	Calico printing and bleaching	-	- ,,	
20	Cotton spinning	-	- ,,	
10	Fulling mill	-	- ,,	
30	Spinning and weaving woollen	-	- ,,	
10	Cotton	-	- ,,	
4	Fustian cutting	-	- ,,	
16	Cotton	-	- ,,	
2	Machine making	-	- ,,	
8	Cotton and Woollen	-	- ,,	
8	Woollen	-	- ,,	
40	Cotton-spinning	-	- ,,	
1,630				
40	Woollen spinning and weaving.			Mr. Chadwick writes "Messrs. Brierleys' are laying the foundation of a large mill, which, with another in contemplation, will make another 100 horse-power."
16	Cotton spinning.			
40	- ditto.			
96				

HEYWOOD and Neighbourhood.

30	Cotton manufacture	-	- ,,	
2	- ditto	-	- ,,	Improved.
1½	Spindle maker	-	- ,,	- ditto.
22	Cotton manufacture	-	- ,,	
40	- ditto	-	- ,,	
16	- ditto	-	- ,,	- ditto.
40	- ditto	-	- ,,	
38	- ditto	-	- ,,	
8	- ditto	-	- ,,	- ditto.
32	- ditto	-	- ,,	
60	Woollen manufacture	-	- ,,	
289½				
40	Cotton manufacture.			

ACCRINGTON and Neighbourhood.

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
John Fort, esq., M.P. - - Mr. Trappes (140).	Hargreaves, Dugdale & Co. -	Accrington - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Marquis, John - - -	- ditto - - - -

BOLTON and Neighbourhood.

Henry Ashworth, esq. - - - - - -	Crook, Joshua & Sons - -	Bolton-le-Moors - -
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Hick (30).	Martin - - - - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Hick (30).	Heaton & Brimilow - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Hick (80.)	Hargreaves, J. & Co. - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Slater, George and James -	Dunscar - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Ainsworth, John Horrock -	Halliwell - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Hardcastle & Son - - -	Firwood - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Baron & Cross - - -	Rose Hill - - -
Ditto - - - R. Walker & Co. (30).	Atkinson, Warr & Co. - -	Little Bolton - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Goodbrand & Baxter - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	M'Cown & Garrett - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Hick (80).	Burns - - - - -	Dixon Green - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Cotton Twist & Co. - -	Ainsworth - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Lee, Rylenson & Co. - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Hick (40).	Gardner & Co. - - -	Barrowbridge - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Gray & Son - - - -	Dam Side, Bolton - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	- ditto - - - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - R. Walker & Co. (120).	Cromptons - - - -	Ringley - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Taylor, W. G. - - - -	Hastley Bridge - -
R. Walker & Co., Bury - - - - -	Darcy Lever Coal Company -	Lever, near Bolton - -
B. Hick, esq., Bolton - - - - - -	Ashworth, H. & E. - -	Egerton - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Burnet, Richard - - -	Horwich, near Bolton -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Arrowsmith, James, & Co. -	Bolton - - - -
Ditto - - - - Mr. Ashworth (30).	Heaton, R. H. - - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - Mr. Ashworth (26).	Dobson, Benjamin - - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Longshaw, W., & Brother -	Worsley, near Bolton -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Kearsley, T. - - - -	Tyldsley, ditto - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Horridge & Holmes - -	Raikes, ditto - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Rushton & Eckersley - -	Bolton - - - -

In course of Erection.

Henry Ashworth, esq. - - - - - -	Ormrod & Hardcastle - -	Great Bolton - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Bollings - - - - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Allinson, John - - - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Wilson - - - - -	Tildsley - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Jones & Co. - - - -	- ditto - - - -
R. Walker & Co., Bury - Mr. Ashworth (30).	Gregson - - - -	Bolton - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Jones, Brothers - - -	Leigh, near Bolton - -
B. Hick, esq., Bolton - - - - - -	Burton & Chippendale - -	Tildsley - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Gardner & Bazley - - -	Halliwell - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	- ditto - - - -	- ditto - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Dean, John & Brothers - -	Bolton - - - -
Ditto - - - - Mr. Ashworth (60).	Ridgway, T. & Co. - - -	Horwich - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Orrill, Robert & Co. - -	Bellmont - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Hick, Benjamin - - -	Bolton - - - -
Henry Ashworth, esq. - - - - - -	Green & Isherwood - -	Leigh - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Manley & Newton - - -	Bag-lane - - - -
Ditto - - - - - - - -	Hurdman & Co. - - -	Carsley - - - -

ACCRINGTON and Neighbourhood.

Horse Power.	TO WHAT DESCRIPTION of MANUFACTURE APPLIED.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	REMARKS.
160	Cotton spinning and weaving	-	-	
20	- ditto	-	-	
180				

BOLTON and Neighbourhood.

30	Spinning and weaving	-	-	
30	- ditto	-	-	
30	- ditto	-	-	
80	- ditto	-	-	
30	Bleaching	-	-	
60	- ditto	-	-	
16	- ditto	-	-	
30	Spinning and weaving	-	-	
30	- ditto	-	-	
20	- ditto	-	-	
10	Spinning	-	-	
80	- ditto	-	-	
50	- ditto	-	-	
60	Spinning and weaving	-	-	
60	- ditto	-	-	
16	- ditto	-	-	
30		-	-	water-wheel.
140	- ditto	-	-	
10	Spinning	-	-	
12	Colliery	-	-	
50	Cotton spinning and weaving	-	-	
30	Cotton spinning	-	-	
30	- ditto	-	-	
30	- ditto	-	-	
40	Machine making	-	-	
80	Cotton spinning and weaving	-	-	to replace an engine of 45 h. p.
30	- ditto	-	-	
15	Bleaching cotton	-	-	
20	Iron forge	-	-	
1,149				

20	Spinning and weaving	-	-	enlarged.
30	- ditto	-	-	- ditto.
30	Machine making.			
24	Spinning and weaving.			
20	- ditto.			
40	Cotton spinning.			
60	Cotton manufacture.			
60	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
60	- ditto	-	-	two, 30 h. p. each.
100	Cotton spinning	-	-	two, of 50 h. p. each.
40	Cotton spinning and weaving	-	-	just commenced building.
60	Bleaching.			
40	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
15	Iron foundry.			
30	Spinning.			
24	Nail making and weaving.			
14	Machine making.			
667				

WIGAN and Neighbourhood.

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
J. S. Heron, esq., Wigan R. Walker & Co. (40).	Walker & Co.	Hindley
Ditto	Pennington, J., & Co., or Hindley Twist Company	ditto
Ditto R. Walker & Co. (40).	Taylor, J., & Co.	Wigan
Ditto	Eckersley, J., & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Woods, William	ditto
Ditto Mr. Hick (30).	Ainsworth & Johnson	ditto
Ditto	Gidlow & Sons	ditto
Ditto	Barlow, James	ditto
Ditto	Fletcher, Benjamin, & Co.	Haigh
Ditto	Pennington J., Sen.	Hindley
Ditto	Ingham & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Green, George	Wigan
Ditto	Leech, Robert, & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Cartwright & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Leadbetter, Edward	ditto
Ditto	Latham, Peter	ditto
Ditto Mr. Hick (30).	Ainsworth & Johnson	ditto
Ditto	Benison, J., & Co.	Clarendon Brook
Ditto Mr. Hick (60).	Brewis, Samuel	Golborne
E. & J. Longton, Manchester	Platt, Adam	Bamforlong Colliery

BURY and Neighbourhood.

R. Walker & Brother, Bury	Kelshaw, Henry	Edenfield
Ditto	Hall & Gorton	Tottington
Ditto	Kershaw, John	Dirple
Ditto	Todd & Turner	Radcliffe
Ditto	Holt, John	Shuttleworth
Ditto	Openshaw, L. R.	Bury
Ditto	Haworth, T., & Sons	Walshaw
Ditto	Battersby, Mrs.	Bury
Ditto	Walker & Lomax	ditto
Ditto	Openshaw, C., & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Grundy, J. & E.	ditto
Ditto	Hall, John, & Brothers	near Bury
Ditto	Knowles, Andrew	Radcliffe
Ditto	Haworth, R. & G.	Crostons
Ditto	Calrow & Brancker	Bury
Ditto	Walker & Lomax	ditto
Ditto	Knowles, Andrew	near Bury
Ditto	Pilkington, T., & Son	Elton
Ditto	Grundys & Livesey	Bury
	In course of Erection.	
R. Walker & Brother	Hutchinson & Openshaw	Bury
Ditto	Rostron, Richard	Edenfield
Ditto	Priestley, John, & Sons	ditto
Ditto	Knowles, Joshua	Tottington
R. Munn, esq., Rochdale	Elton, Samuel	Edenfield

HASLINGDEN and Neighbourhood.

R. Walker & Brother	Turner, W. & R.	near Haslingden
Ditto Mr. Munn (36).	Stott & Smith	ditto
B. Hick, esq., Bolton	Grant, William, & Brothers	Ramsbottom
Ditto	ditto	ditto
	In course of Erection.	
R. Walker & Co.	Hargreaves, G.	Haslingden

WIGAN and Neighbourhood.

Horse Power.	To what description of manufacture applied.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	Remarks.
40	Cotton spinning	"	"	
100	ditto	"	"	
45	ditto	"	"	
70	Cotton spinning and manufacturing	"	"	
70	ditto	"	"	
30	Cotton spinning	"	"	
40	ditto	"	"	
20	Cotton spinning and sawing timber	"	"	
20	Machine making	"	"	
20	Cotton spinning and manufacturing	"	"	has erected or is erecting.
70	Spinning and manufacturing	"	"	
6	Manufacturing	"	"	
14	Machine making	"	"	
20	Cotton spinning	"	"	
6	Machine making	"	"	
2	ditto	"	"	
30	Cotton spinning	"	"	in addition to former.
6	Machine making	"	"	
40	Spinning and manufacturing	"	"	
22	Colliery	-	"	
671				

BURY and Neighbourhood.

40	Cotton spinning	-	"	
30	Wood grinding	-	"	
12	Cotton spinning	-	"	
30	Bleaching and finishing	-	"	
20	Paper making	-	"	
50	Cotton spinning	-	"	
50	Cotton manufacture	-	"	
20	ditto	-	"	
70	ditto	-	"	
60	ditto	-	"	
60	Woollen	-	"	
30	Quilting manufacture	-	"	
12	Colliery	-	"	
20	Cotton spinning	-	"	
50	ditto	-	"	
12	Colliery	-	"	
8	ditto	-	"	
25	Cotton spinning	-	"	
40	ditto	-	"	- - to replace a 40 horse power sent to Belgium.
639				
60	Cotton spinning.			
58	Colliery.			
16	Cotton spinning.			
12	Calico printing.			
20	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
166				

HASLINGDEN and Neighbourhood.

40	Woollen manufacture	-	"	
30	ditto	-	"	
60	Cotton spinning	-	"	
30	Cotton bleaching	-	"	
160				
16	Cotton spinning.			

(continued.)

BURNLEY and Neighbourhood.

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
John Fort, esq., M.P. - Mr. Trappes (35). R. Walker & Co. (30). Mr. Munn (30).	Slater, G., & Co.	Burnley
Ditto - Mr. Trappes (25). Mr. Munn (20).	Hopwood & Son	ditto
Ditto - R. Walker & Co. (55). Mr. Munn (50).	Roberts & Walton	ditto
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Hick (15).	Hargreaves, R.	ditto
Ditto Mr. Trappes (35). R. Walker & Co. (40). Mr. Munn (20).	Holgate, John & George	ditto
Ditto - Mr. Trappes (50). Mr. Munn (60).	Barns, G., & Sons	ditto
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Munn (20).	Smallpage & Co.	ditto
Ditto - Mr. Trappes (30). Mr. Munn (20).	Knowles, Henry	ditto
Ditto - Mr. Trappes (20). Mr. Munn (14).	Sutcliffe, James	ditto
Ditto - - - - Mr. Trappes (30).	Pollard, Edward	ditto
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Greenwood, John	ditto
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Wilkinson, John	ditto
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Pilling, James	ditto
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Thursby & Scarlett, late J. Hargreaves, esq.	ditto
Ditto - Mr. Eccles (50). Mr. Trappes (36).	Clegg, Henderson & Co.	Henfield Clayton-le-Moors
R. Trappes, esq., Clitheroe - - - - -	Whittam, Francis	Hazzleford
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Tunstall & Armistead	Burnley
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Pollard, James	ditto
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Clegg, Henderson & Co.	Clayton-le-Moors
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Fort (140).	Dugdale, John, & Brothers	Habergham Eaves
Ditto - - - - - Mr. Munn (12).	Sellers, John, & Sons	Burnley
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Haworth, John	ditto
R. Munn, esq., Rochdale - - - - -	Spencer & Moore	ditto
R. Walker & Co., Bury - - - - -	Tunstill, Henry	near Burnley

In course of Erection.

John Fort, esq. M.P. - - - - - -	Law & Veevers	Burnley
H. Ashworth, esq. - - - - - -	Williamson, John	ditto
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Pollard, Edward	ditto
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Gregory, Peter	Down Hill Green

BACUP and Neighbourhood.

R. Munn, esq., Rochdale - - - - -	Maden, Joseph & Henry	Bacup
Ditto - - - R. Walker & Co. (16).	Howorth & Whitehead	Deane in Rossendale
Ditto - - - Mr. Ashworth (30).	Dawson & Co.	Bacup
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Crankshaw, Richard	Crawshaw Booth
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Sellers, Henry	ditto
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Whitaker, John, & Co.	Rawtenstall
R. Walker & Co., Bury - - - - -	Ashworth, G.	Bridge End, Rossendale
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Lord, John	Bacup
John Petrie, esq. - - - - - -	Smith, James	ditto
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Lord & Howorth	Rowcliffe, near Bacup
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Ormerod, John & Sons	Waterbarn, Rossendale

In course of Erection.

R. Munn, esq. - - R. Walker & Co. (30).	Lord, John	Bacup
Ditto - - - - - - - - -	Hoyle, Bacon & Co.	ditto
Ditto - - - - Mr. Petrie (30).	Aitken, James	ditto
Ditto - - - R. Walker & Co. (120).	Whitehead, T., & Brothers	Rawtenstall

BURNLEY and Neighbourhood.

Horse Power.	To what description of manufacture applied.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	Remarks.
35	Cotton spinning and weaving		,,	
30	ditto		,,	
50	ditto		,,	
15	ditto		,,	
30	ditto		,,	
50	ditto		,,	
35	ditto		,,	
20	ditto		,,	
15	ditto		,,	
15	ditto		,,	
25	Corn-mill		,,	
10	Machine maker		,,	
6	ditto		,,	
200	Coal works		,,	
36	Cotton spinning and weaving		,,	
15	ditto		,,	
30	ditto		,,	
30	ditto		,,	
36	ditto		,,	
180	ditto		,,	In addition to one before mentioned.
25	Cotton weaving		,,	
25	Cotton spinning		,,	
4	ditto		,,	
16	Cotton manufacture		,,	
933				
30	Cotton-spinning and weaving.			
20	Spinning and weaving.			
20	ditto.			
14	ditto.			
84				

BACUP and Neighbourhood.

10	Cotton spinning and weaving		,,	
16	ditto ditto		,,	
20	Printers of cotton		,,	
20	Spinning and weaving		,,	
4	Spinning cotton		,,	
14	ditto		,,	
12	ditto		,,	
16	ditto		,,	
30	Cotton spinning and weaving		,,	
10	Cotton		,,	
50	Cotton and woollen		,,	
202				
36	Cotton-spinning and weaving.			
18	ditto.			
30	ditto.			
125	ditto.			
209				

TODMORDEN and Neighbourhood.

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
R. Munn, esq., Rochdale	Forth & Co.	Todmorden
Ditto — Richard Walker & Co. (30).	Stansfield, J. & A.	ditto
Ditto	Barker, J. & W.	ditto
Ditto	Fielden, J. & W.	ditto
Ditto	Inchcliffe & Brother	ditto
Ditto — Mr. Petrie (40).	Ashton & Cropley	ditto
John Petrie, esq.	Lord, John	ditto
	In course of Erection.	
R. Munn, esq.	Ramsbottom, Thomas, & Co.	Todmorden
Ditto — Richard Walker & Co. (26).	Ormrod, Abraham, & Brothers	ditto
Ditto	Cropley, E., & Son	ditto
Ditto — Mr. Cheetham (120).	Fielden, Brothers	ditto
Ditto	Hammertons	ditto
Richard Walker & Co., Bury	Oliver & Sons	ditto

COLNE, PADIHAM and Neighbourhood.

R. Trappes, esq., Clitheroe	Thornber, Thomas	Colne
Ditto	England, Nicholas	ditto
Ditto	Hobroyd, Henry	ditto
Ditto — Mr. Fort (40). Mr. Munn (30).	Heap, Roberts & Co.	Padiham
Ditto	Tunstall & Armistead	Marsden, near Colne
John Petrie, esq.	Edmondson, J.	Bradley Mill, near Colne
Richard Walker & Co., Bury	Executors of Paul Tickle	Padiham
	In course of Erection.	
R. Munn, esq. — Mr. Hick (100).	Dugdale John, & Brothers	Padiham
Ditto R. Walker & Co. (30). Mr. Fort (30). Mr. Trappes (36).	Helm, H. & E.	ditto

PRESTON and Neighbourhood.

William Taylor, esq., Preston	Taylor, W.	
Ditto	ditto	
Ditto	Dawson, H.	
Ditto	Sheddon, F.	
Ditto	Munday, T.	
Ditto	Barhall & Co.	
Ditto	Riley, R.	
Ditto — Richard Walker & Co. (28).	Crankshaw	
Ditto	Livesey & Leigh	
Ditto — Richard Walker & Co. (30).	Hawkins, R.	
Ditto	German, Petty & Co.	Marsh-lane
Ditto	Clayton	Green-bank
Ditto	Paul, Cattrall, Son & Co.	Park-lane
Ditto — Mr. Hick (30).	Preston Sawing Company	Marsh-lane
Ditto	Grundy, Thomas, & Co.	Tithe-barn-street
Ditto	Finch, Twindlehurst & Co.	Edward-street
Ditto	Park, J. P., & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Worsley	Pole-street, Preston
Ditto	Houlding & Co.	Marsh lane
Richard Walker & Co., Bury	Singleton, T.	Kirkham
B. Hick, esq., Bolton	Gardner, R., & Co.	Preston
	In course of Erection.	
William Taylor, esq. — Mr. Hick (230).	Horrockses, Miller & Co.	Church-street, Preston
Ditto	McGuffoggs	Green-bank, ditto
Ditto	Horrockses, Jackson & Co.	Tyke-hill, ditto
Ditto	Dawson, H.	Oxheyes, ditto
Ditto	North Union Railway Comp.	Preston
B. Hick, esq.	Park, John, & Son	Withnall

TODMORDEN and Neighbourhood.

Horse Power.	To what description of Manufacture applied.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	Remarks.
26	Weaving		"	
30	Spinning and weaving		"	
5	ditto		"	
14	ditto		"	
24	ditto		"	
20	ditto		"	
8	Machine making		"	
127				
70	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
15	ditto.			
8	ditto.			
120	ditto.			
8	ditto.			
26	Corn-mill.			
247				

COLNE, PADIHAM and Neighbourhood.

50	Cotton spinning		"	
30	ditto		"	
20	Cotton weaving		"	
50	Cotton spinning		"	
16	Cotton weaving and spinning		"	
16	Corn grinding		"	
60	Cotton manufacture		"	
242				
100	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
30	ditto.			
130				

PRESTON and Neighbourhood.

30	Cotton	"		
30	ditto	"		
40	ditto	"		
36	ditto	"		
30	ditto	"		
100	ditto	"		in two engines.
60	ditto	"		ditto.
36	ditto	"		
20	Cotton weaving	"		
40	ditto	"		
30	Linen spinning and weaving		"	
10	Millwright's work		"	
40	Cotton spinning and weaving		"	
30	Sawing timber		"	
30	Machine making		"	
12	ditto		"	
8	ditto		"	
8	ditto		"	
20	ditto		"	
8	Flax spinning		"	
40	Cotton spinning and weaving		"	
658				
200	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
30	Cotton spinning.			
30	ditto.			
50	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
8	Machine making.			
50	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
368				

BLACKBURN and Neighbourhood.

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
Banister Eccles, esq., Blackburn	Turner, W. & J.	Blackburn
Ditto — Mr. Hick (80). Mr. Fort (100).	Hornby, W. H., & Co.	ditto
Ditto — R. Walker & Co. (60). Mr. Fort (60).	Bulcock, Walter	ditto
Ditto — Mr. Hick (50). Mr. Fort (50).	Eccles, W., & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Thomson, J.	ditto
Ditto — Mr. Hick (20). Mr. Fort (50).	Hopwood, R., & Son	ditto
Ditto	Forrest & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Hall & Bolton	ditto
Ditto	Priest, W., & Co.	ditto
Ditto — Mr. Fort (20).	Jackson	ditto
Ditto	Briggs	ditto
Ditto — Mr. Hick (30). Mr. Fort (36).	Eccles, Shorrock & Co.	Darwen
Ditto	Turner, W., esq., M. P.	Emund
Ditto — Mr. Fort (60).	Turner, W. & J.	Blackburn
Ditto — Mr. Fort (86).	Hilton, C. H. & E.	Darwen
Richard Walker & Co., Bury — Mr. Fort (30).	Alston & Co.	Blackburn
John Fort, esq., M. P.	Ainsworth, Houghton	Darwen
Ditto	Potter, E.	ditto
Ditto — Mr. Hick (160).	Shorock, E. & Co.	ditto
Ditto	Parkinson & Holt	Blackburn
Ditto	Lund & Nephew	ditto
Ditto	Thwaits, Daniel	ditto
Ditto	Stuttards & Co.	Mellor
	In course of Erection.	
John Fort, esq., M. P.	Hall & Bolton	Blackburn
Ditto	Forrest, John, & Co.	ditto
Ditto — R. Walker & Co. (40).	Brierley & Press	ditto
Ditto	Thomson, John	ditto
Richard Walker & Co. — Mr. Fort (35).	Walmsley, B. & R.	near Blackburn
Henry Ashworth, esq.	Jackson, Geo.	Blackburn
Ditto	Byers, Robert	ditto
Ditto	Openshaw, J. H.	Darwen

CHORLEY.

P. Rothwell, esq., Bolton	Smethurst	Chorley

MACCLESFIELD and Neighbourhood.

B. Hick, esq., Bolton	Wood, Chas., & Brothers	Macclesfield
P. Rothwell, esq.	Swindles & Co.	Bollington

GLOSSOP and Neighbourhood.

Richard Walker & Brother, Bury	Bennitt, J. & T.	Turnlee, Glossop
B. Hick, esq., Bolton — Mr. Potter (25).	Sumner, Francis	Glossop
J. Petrie, esq.	Winterbottom, J., & Co.	Bottom's Lodge, near Mottram
Edmund Potter, esq.	Robinson, W.	Glossop
Ditto	Hadfield	ditto
Ditto	Wood, John	ditto
W. Sidebotham, esq.	Sidebotham, J. & W.	ditto

BLACKBURN and Neighbourhood.

Horse Power.	To what Description of Manufacture applied.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	Remarks.
40		"		
100		"		
40		"		
60	Cotton Manufacture	"		
28	ditto	"		
20	ditto	"		
40	ditto	"		
36	ditto	"		
46	ditto	"		
14	ditto	"		
20	ditto	"		
40	ditto	"		
20	ditto	"		
28	ditto	"		
50	Paper making	"		
30	Cotton spinning		"	
6	Weaving		"	
6	ditto		"	
160	Cotton spinning and weaving		"	
30	ditto		"	
36	ditto		"	
15	Brewing		"	
40	Cotton spinning and weaving		"	
905				
35	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
40	ditto.			
40	ditto.			
30	ditto.			
30	Cotton spinning.			
20	Spinning.			
6	Weaving.			
10	ditto.			
211				

CHORLEY.

60		"		

MACCLESFIELD and Neighbourhood.

60	Cotton spinning		"	
80		"		
140				

GLOSSOP and Neighourhood.

12	Paper making		"	
20	Cotton spinning and weaving		"	
30	Cotton		"	
8	Spinning	"		
12	ditto	"		
60	ditto	"		
40	Spinning and weaving	"		This engine, although not actually erected since 1835, was then unemployed, and has since been brought into operation.
182				

MANCHESTER and NEIGHBOURHOOD.

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
W. Fairburn, esq., Manchester	Gray, B.	
Ditto	Lewiss, Williams & Co.	
Ditto	Clarke, B., & Co.	Manchester and Ancoats
Ditto	Pooley, Charles & Co.	
Ditto	Guest, James	
Ditto	Ollerenshaw	Gorton and Fenfield
Ditto — Mr. Hick (100).	Christie	
Ditto	Barton & Co.	
Ditto	Hoyle, Thomas & Co.	
Ditto	Waterhouse & Thomson	Ardwick and Ancoats
Ditto	Wood & Westhead	
Ditto — Mr. Hick (40).	Dyer, J. C.	
Ditto	Hetherington	
Ditto	- ditto	Ancoats and Newton-lane
Ditto	Fairburn	
Ditto	Kennedy, James	
Richard Walker & Co., Bury	Lomas, William	Manchester
E. & J. Longton, Manchester	Ashworth, John, & Co.	Newton Heath
Ditto	Longton, E. & J.	Manchester
Richard Walker & Co., Bury	Knowles, Andrew	Pendlebury
Ditto	Tootal, H. & E.	Manchester
Ditto	Harding, T.	- ditto
Ditto	Ennen, Brothers	- ditto
Ditto	Armitage, Elkanah	- ditto
E. & J. Longton	Hilton, H., & Co.	Leigh
Ditto	- ditto	Harpurhey
Ditto	Walker, W., & Co.	W. Leigh
B. Hick, esq., Bolton	Schwabe, Louis	Manchester
Ditto	Harker, George	- ditto
Ditto	Barratt, J., & Sons	Newton Heath
Ditto	Oxford-road Twist Company	Manchester
W. Fairburn, esq.	Name not stated	Water-street, North Parade
Ditto		Lower Mosley-street
Ditto		Other works

In course of Erection.

Richard Walker & Co., Bury	Dewhurst & Sugar	Manchester
Ditto	Connexion Canal Company	- ditto
Ditto	Beaver, J. A.	- ditto
Henry Ashworth, esq.	Ferth, Joseph	- ditto
Ditto	Edwards, W.	- ditto
Ditto	Sutliff, Matthew	- ditto
B. Hick, esq., Bolton	Hanover Mill Company	- ditto
Ditto	Orrell, Robert	Andershaw
Mr. Fairburn	Gans, now Worthington	Ardwick or Ancoats
Ditto	Orrell, John	Gorton
Ditto	Shaw & Stewart	Ancoats
Ditto	Dodgson	- ditto
Ditto	Small engines not named	Ancoats and Newton-lane
Ditto	Knot Mill	Bridgewater-street
Ditto	Dyers Founder	
Ditto	Mills not named	

- - - - - - - MANCHESTER and Neighbourhood.

Horse Power.	TO WHAT DESCRIPTION of MANUFACTURE APPLIED.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	REMARKS.
30	Spinning - - - - - -	- ,,		
45	Spinning and weaving - -	- ,,		
120	Spinning - - - - - -	- ,,		
55	- ditto - - - - - -	- ,,		
30	Spinning and weaving - -	- ,,		
50	Spinning - - - - - -	- ,,		
80	- ditto - - - - - -	- ,,		
30	Spinning and weaving - -	- ,,		
10	Printing - - - - - -	- ,,		
35	Spinning and weaving - -	- ,,		
20	- ditto - - - - - -	- ,,		
40	Machine making - - -	- ,,		
20	Silk-mill - - - - - -	- ,,		
28	Machine making - - -	- ,,		
45	Spinning - - - - - -	- ,,		
80	- ditto - - - - - -	- ,,		
40	Cotton spinning - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
4	Silk winding - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
10	Machine making and manufacturing	- - -	- ,,	
100	Colliery pumping - - -	- - -	- ,,	
12	Silk-mill - - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
30	Cotton thread - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
25	Cotton spinning - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
25	- ditto - - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
4	Silk winding - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
4	- ditto - - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
4	- ditto - - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
10	Silk weaving - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
20	Cotton spinning - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
30	Cotton spinning and weaving -	- - -	- ,,	
80	- ditto - - - - -	- - -	- ,,	
80	Spinning - - - - - -	- ,,		
40	- ditto - - - - - -	- ,, -	- - -	in three mills.
80	Spinning and weaving - -	- ,,		
1,316				
30	Cotton finishing.			
200	Canal purposes - - - -	- - -	- - -	in two engines.
60	Cotton spinning.			
12	Fustian finishing.			
10	Machine making.			
6	Fustian finishing.			
120	Cotton spinning and weaving.			
50	- ditto.			
120	Spinning.			
120	- ditto.			
60	- ditto.			
90	- ditto.			
20				
40	Spinning.			
20				
100	Spinning and weaving.			
1,058				

OLDHAM and Neighbourhood.

AUTHORITY.	NAME OF FIRM.	WHERE SITUATE.
David Cheetham, esq.	Lees, J.	Clarksfield, Oldham
Ditto	Lees & Bottomley	ditto ditto
Ditto	Brideoaks	Millbottom ditto
Ditto	Radcliffe, S., & Sons	Moorside ditto
Ditto	Nathans	ditto ditto
Ditto	Jones, J., & Co.	Mumps ditto
Ditto	Partington	ditto ditto
Ditto R. Walker & Co. (50).	Lees, John	Fogg-lane ditto
Ditto	Bradbury, C.	ditto ditto
Ditto	Halladay, J.	ditto ditto
Ditto	Harrop, J.	Burnsley, near Oldham
Ditto Mr. Hick (50).	Hepworth & Barker	Shaw ditto
Ditto	Mills & Crompton	ditto ditto
Ditto R. Walker & Co. (40).	Milne & Travis	ditto ditto
Ditto	Swills & Co.	Royton ditto
R. Walker & Co., Bury	Haigh, John	Oldham
	In course of Erection.	
David Cheetham, esq.	Clegg, A.	Mumps, near Oldham
Ditto	Emmett, G.	Oldham

CLITHEROE and Neighbourhood.

R. Trappes, esq., Clitheroe	Stuttard, James	Clitheroe
	In course of Erection.	
R. Trappes, esq. Mr. Fort (36).	Bulcock & Sons	Clitheroe

LANCASTER and Neighbourhood.

B. Hick, esq., Bolton	Burrow, Higgin & Co.	Lancaster
	In course of Erection.	
R. Walker & Co., Bury	Hardy & Threlfall	Lancaster

OLDHAM and Neighbourhood.

Horse Power.	To what description of manufacture applied.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since July 1835.	In answer to Circular inquiring what Increase of Steam Power had taken place since January 1835.	Remarks.
40	Cotton		,,	
40	ditto		,,	
40	ditto		,,	
70	ditto		,,	
24	ditto		,,	
80	ditto		,,	
10	ditto		,,	
50	ditto		,,	
20	ditto		,,	
40	ditto		,,	
60	ditto		,,	
50	ditto		,,	
50	ditto		,,	
16	ditto		,,	
16	ditto		,,	
30	Cotton spinning		,,	
636				
50	Cotton.			
24	ditto.			
74				

CLITHEROE and Neighbourhood.

14	Cotton spinning and weaving		,,	
36	Spinning cotton.			

LANCASTER and Neighbourhood.

30	Cotton spinning		,,	
40	Cotton spinning.			

Appendix, No. 3.

Appendix, No. 3.

THE following SUGGESTIONS are respectfully submitted to the consideration of the Committee of POOR LAW INQUIRY as points regarding which an alteration of the Law is necessary for the better and more effectual administration under the POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

1.—THE AUDIT.

UNDER the present system of auditing the accounts, the greatest irregularity exists, and an entire want of uniformity prevails.

The amount of salary given to the Auditors is so inadequate, as to prevent persons of respectable station from devoting that time to the duty which is necessary and desirable; moreover the Auditor, being appointed by the Board of Guardians, is generally a person whose avocations and interests are so intimately blended with the locality in which he resides, as to render a strict performance of his duty as Auditor scarcely possible.

Under the existing arrangements, nothing can be more various than the character and station of the persons holding the situation of Auditors. Solicitors of eminence in their profession, attornies of little or no practice, postmasters, schoolmasters and tradesmen whose business in a great degree depends upon the custom of those whose accounts they are called upon to allow or disallow, all these fill the most important situation of Auditor.

Since any former examination on this point before the Committee, I have discovered irregularities of the greatest importance in the present system of audit; irregularities which render the administration of the Board of Guardians a *nullity*, and which can only be remedied by an alteration in the appointment of Auditors; for instance,—

In the Newark Union the Auditor is a highly respectable attorney; he gives the usual notice of audit; the overseers attend him with their books; the accounts are gone through, and the necessary certificate is attached.

In taking new averages for Newark Union, I have discovered that in many of the parishes a *private book* is kept, which in *never produced* before the Auditor, and *the existence of which* he has *no means of ascertaining.*

Into this book *a part of the rate is brought*, and is expended *contrary to law*, contrary to the *orders* of the *Commissioners*, and to the *express decisions* and *directions* of the *Board of Guardians*; I will give one instance by way of illustration, (I have now the books in my possession ready to produce before the Committee, if desired):

Parish of Harby, Newark Union.

The usual books of receipt and expenditure are produced before the Auditor, and signed by him.

In the book produced to the Auditor, a rate of one shilling in the pound appears, and is accounted for in the regular manner; but *another rate-book is kept*, in which a rate of a smaller amount is collected, and carried into the private account. This smaller rate is expended on,—

(1.) Out-door relief to those *persons* to *whom* the *Board* of Guardians have *refused* an *out-door* allowance; but whom the overseers think proper to relieve in this way.

As an instance of this: a man of the name of Parr absconded, leaving his wife and child chargeable to the parish of South Clifton, Newark Union; she was removed from South Clifton to the union workhouse on account of the parish of Harby, to which she belonged.

The Board of Guardians having reason to believe that the woman was in collusion with her husband, refused her out-door relief. This did not suit the views of the overseer of Harby; *he* therefore *took her out of the workhouse*, saying she could maintain herself; he *removed her* to the *parish* of *Laneham, East Retford Union* (thus making her *non-resident*), and has ever since been *relieving* her *with 3s. 6d. per week out of the rate*, which is carried into the private account. Her relief stands thus in the book, which, after much trouble, I have procured, and am prepared to produce:

			s.	d.
" 1837:	May 7.	Mrs. Parr's collection - - - - -	3	6
—	— 14.	Mrs. Parr's collection - - - - -	3	6
—	— 21.	Mrs. Parr's collection - - - - -	3	6
—	— 28.	Mrs. Parr's collection - - - - -	3	6"

and so on, up to the end of the year ending March 25, 1838.

The overseer also charges in this book *2s. 6d. on* his *own account for visiting this pauper at Laneham*; and thus in this instance (only one of many others) the overseer *supersedes* and sets aside the *decision* of the *Board of Guardians*, and abrogates the rules of the Commissioners, both generally and as regards relief to able-bodied non-resident paupers.

It will, of course, be at once apparent that the Board of Guardians are *useless*, if the overseer can thus abrogate their decisions, and that the intentions of the Legislature are frustrated, if an overseer can in any way sap and undermine that superstructure which has been laid for the purpose of working out the moral improvement and regeneration of the labouring classes.

(2.) The

(2.) The following are among other items, which appear upon the overseer's accounts of Harby Parish: Appendix, No. 3.

	£.	s.	d.	
" Thos Colton, 1 week - - -	–	8	–	
" Thos Colton, 2 weeks - - -	–	16	–	-- Relief given by the overseer to an able-bodied man.
" Thos Colton, 2 weeks and many other weeks. - - -	–	16	–	
Snakes and sparrows - - - -	1	–	7	
Paid to Church - - - -	3	–	8	This ought to be Church-rate.
Paid the Guardian four journies to Claypole - - - -	1	–	–	-- 5s. per day for attending meeting of Guardians.
Paid Guardian one day - - -	–	5	–	"

This payment to the Guardian for his attendance at the Board of Guardians has been made, and is charged to the poor-rate during the whole period since the formation of the Union.

Many other items appear, which are opposed to all sound principle, and which are contrary to law, but which are not discoverable by the existing Auditors.

In the parish of Thurlby an application was made by the overseers to the Board of Guardians to apprentice a boy out of the parish, with a premium. The Board of Guardians decided that no premium beyond clothes should be allowed for the purpose.

The overseer of Thurlby *abrogated* the *decision* of the *Board of Guardians*, and paid a premium of 7*l. out of the poor-rate*, and placed the amount *in the private account*, which *is not produced before the Auditor*. I have the private rate-book of the parish of Thurlby to produce before the Committee, if desired.

Other parishes adopt the same course, and I have other books in my possession, proving their gross perversions of the rates; but enough has, perhaps, been stated for the present purpose.

A practice prevailed under the old law, of collecting rates which are not signed and allowed by the Magistrates. This practice still exists to a considerable extent, and a portion of the rates thus collected *are carried by the overseer to the private account*, which he *expends* in *opposition* to the *decision* of the *Board of Guardians*.

I have received a letter, dated July 2d, 1838, from the Auditor of East Retford Union, a highly respectable solicitor, from which the following is an extract:

" Some parish officers have omitted to get their rates allowed by Magistrates, yet have collected them. This was a very general practice under the old law. The last audit where I became aware that an overseer had collected a rate without allowance, I treated it altogether as illegal, and struck it out of his accounts, to ensure regularity for the future; instructing him, by way of cure, to get a new rate properly allowed, and to allow those rate-payers who had paid the illegal rate, the amount so paid in the new rate. I find, however, that new overseers in other parishes, either from ignorance, indolence, or, as they state, to save the small fee payable to the clerk to the Magistrates, have neglected to get their rates allowed. The question is then, What shall I do?"

I submit, that as the law now stands in regard to the appointments of Auditors, no security exists for the due administration of the whole of the poor-rate; and that the Auditor has no power to search out and discover these abuses. I also submit, that if he had the power, he could not be expected, for his small remuneration, to devote sufficient time to the object; and that all his interests are *directly opposed* to any exercise of power which should bring him into collision with his clients, his customers or his local connexions. I conceive that the only security against such flagrant abuses is in a change regarding the auditorship; and that the Commissioners ought to be invested with the power of *appointing Auditors*, or of *constituting* the *Assistant Commissioners Auditors*, allowing them such assistance as is necessary for the purpose. The responsible Auditor ought to be a person of standing altogether unconnected with the locality in which he performs his functions, and one who can bring to the performance of his duty a *perfect knowledge* of *the law*, and of the *rules* of *the Commissioners*, and *of the functions of the officers employed*, relative to the *whole administration of poor-rate*.

I submit, that a perfect system of audit may easily be effected at a much less cost than the now inefficient, and, in many instances, totally useless system of audit in operation.

If the Commissioners had power to appoint the Assistant Commissioners Auditors, without any increase of emolument, an extra cost would be necessary in giving to each Assistant Commissioner an efficient clerk or assistant, who might perform the mechanical part of the duty, under directions of the Assistant Commissioners, who should be made the responsible Auditor, and who might otherwise assist the Assistant Commissioner in the performance of much mechanical duty which now occupies his time.

I have carefully gone over the map, and the particulars of the Unions, and I am confident that the districts might be so arranged, that 16 Assistant Commissioners' audits would comprise the whole.*

I submit,

* If at any future time the Assistant Commissioners could be dispensed with, the Secretary of State or the Judges might appoint 16 responsible Auditors of rank and station, whose sole duty would be the auditing the accounts.

Appendix, No. 3.

I submit, in conclusion upon this point, that the audit is the *master-key* to the whole administration of poor-rate, according to the intentions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, and by which alone the whole system can be checked and kept in order, so as to insure that great moral effect which was the ultimate aim of the Legislature in passing the Poor Law Amendment Act; and I consider that no one point is of so much importance as the placing this master-key in the hands of those who are responsible to Parliament for the performance of the duty, with zeal, uniformity, efficiency and entire freedom from local interests, influences or prejudices.

2.—The power to dissolve the existing Gilbert's Incorporations, and the repealing all local Acts for the administration of the relief to the poor is absolutely necessary to ensure that uniformity of system which the Poor Law Amendment Act is intended to create, as well as to prevent injury and inconvenience to others whose interests are involved by being in the vicinity of these incorporations.

3.—The power to alter Unions when formed, either by taking away small portions, or by uniting small Unions together, ought to be given to the Commissioners, who would, of course, only exercise such power when existing arrangements were proved to be inconvenient and contrary to the best interests of the parishes concerned.

4.—Education.

I beg to submit, that an alteration of the law is essential in reference to this subject, and that it is most important that the Commissioners should have the power of concentrating the pauper children of Unions (subject to approval of the Secretary of State), within certain limits, so as to enable them to secure to such children those advantages in respect of their moral, secular and industrial training, which are so essential to their future welfare, and which it is impossible otherwise to effect.

5.—Election of Guardians.

It is of great importance that an alteration of the law should be effected in this respect. The power of uniting small parishes for the purpose of electing a Guardian, and the power of dividing large and populous parishes into wards for the purpose of electing Guardians, would be of essential practical benefit to all parties concerned, and would greatly conduce to the public advantage.

6.—The better provision for pauper lunatics and harmless idiots, &c. by the erection of separate wards in the existing workhouses, which should be placed under supervision of visitors (magistrates and medical), or by the erection of a separate establishment for a number of Unions, would conduce greatly to the comfort of the inmates, and would greatly tend to a more proper provision for this class, too many of whom are at present very inadequately and inconveniently provided for.

July 7, 1838. *Edward Gulson.*

Appendix, No. 4.

AMPTHILL UNION.

[*Vide* Forty-third Report, Question 14370.]

LIST of AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS in the Employment of MR. T. W. OVERMAN, *Maulden, Bedfordshire.*

From July 1834 to July 1835.		From July 1837 to July 1838.	
MEN.	BOYS.	MEN.	BOYS.
John Walton.	William Stanford.	John Brackley.	William Stanford.
John Wilmer.	Thomas Odell.	Joseph Cole.	Thomas Adams.
William Summerfield.	James Stanford.	John Johnson.	B. Sinfield.
Daniel Keech.	Henry Stanford.	John Cole.	William Benham.
Austin Bass.	William Bass.	James Sharp.	J. Cole.
John Cooper.	Charles Bass.	Henry Stanford.	C. Bass.
George Garner.	James Bass.	Charles Cole.	James Cooper.
Henry Smith.	John Cooper.	Samuel Cole.	John Johnson.
John Richardson.	Charles Cole.	Austin Bass.	Joseph Johnson.
William Brackley.	Joseph Cole.	John Cooper.	Daniel Keech.
Joseph Johnson.	John Johnson.	Daniel Keech.	Thomas Sinfield.
John Cook.	Joseph Johnson.	John Wilmer.	
Richard Robinson.	Thomas Adams.	William Summerfield.	
John Brackley.		Joseph Johnson.	
John Mann.		John Cooke.	
Joseph Cole.		John Richardson.	
James Sharp.		J. Inskip.	
John Johnson.		Francis Northwood.	
John Cole.		James Stamford.	
William Adams.		John Walton.	
		John Mann.	
		William Brackley.	
		John Garner.	
		D. Wilshire.	
		William Adams.	
		Thomas Mann.	
20	13	26	11
33		37	

STATEMENT of WEEKLY WAGES paid for FARM LABOUR during Four Years, by MR. T. W. OVERMAN.

	Amount paid in Wages, 1834–5.	Amount paid in Wages, 1835–6.	Amount paid in Wages, 1836–7.	Amount paid in Wages, 1837–8.
July:	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1 week {commencing 5th July}	18 15 9	20 17 2	20 19 2	18 19 –
2 weeks	25 12 4	18 – 4	21 8 11	20 14 2
3 „	20 5 3	22 13 8	16 11 8	20 18 4
August:				
4 „	19 16 6	19 13 9	17 18 1	20 12 4
5 „	19 10 –	14 17 –	26 12 1	17 2 6
6 „	14 12 –	21 5 6	21 4 7	26 6 –
7 „	74 – 6	16 2 6	18 8 6	25 14 4
8 „	16 1 9	74 18 6	24 7 8	15 8 6
September:				
9 „	13 15 3	13 14 10	63 19 11	17 10 3
10 „	11 8 3	12 3 7	15 3 10	67 13 –
11 „	14 16 11	12 19 –	13 1 5	17 4 9
12 „	12 4 9	14 19 4	14 6 10	15 17 2
October:				
13 „	13 1 7	11 15 9	14 10 6	14 12 8
14 „	10 18 6	12 12 7	17 9 9	13 1 8
15 „	11 15 5	12 – 6	12 1 3	13 4 1
16 „	11 3 6	11 3 5	13 11 9	12 3 6

(*continued.*)

Appendix, No. 4.

Statement of Weekly Wages paid for Farm Labour, &c.—*continued.*

	Amount paid in Wages, 1834–5.	Amount paid in Wages, 1835–6.	Amount paid in Wages, 1836–7.	Amount paid in Wages, 1837–8.
November:	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
17 weeks	11 18 3	12 11 –	12 4 6	11 8 6
18 „	11 16 8	12 18 1	12 2 5	11 16 8
19 „	12 – 7½	12 8 7	13 14 8	12 5 10
20 „	10 13 5	11 18 11	13 1 3	11 18 5
21 „	12 5 7	11 19 5	14 – 4	13 7 11
December:				
22 „	11 1 –	13 5 2	13 4 7	12 18 8
23 „	12 14 4	13 14 10	14 12 4	13 14 5
24 „	11 9 –	13 1 –	15 14 5	14 13 5
25 „	12 1 8	12 13 –	15 7 –	14 16 6
January:				
26 „	11 5 4	13 10 9	12 15 2	14 2 7
27 „	12 7 6	12 3 6	14 1 1	15 – 5
28 „	11 10 9	12 18 2	14 2 7	14 2 6
29 „	13 3 6	12 17 5	13 17 3	14 4 –
30 „	11 19 1	12 5 –	12 18 –	15 16 4
February:				
31 „	13 7 11	12 2 4	13 1 8	14 2 1
32 „	11 16 10	11 9 9	13 18 2	14 13 5
33 „	15 6 2	12 16 1	12 13 3	16 17 7
34 „	12 3 9	12 4 8	16 16 9	14 13 6
March:				
35 „	13 1 –	13 3 2	16 19 3	15 14 2
36 „	10 18 10	12 6 7	15 3 7	15 13 10
37 „	12 11 2	14 15 9	17 15 6	15 6 2
38 „	12 9 10	11 10 6	15 17 7	15 1 11
April:				
39 „	13 16 2	10 18 8	15 – –	15 10 2
40 „	12 11 10	11 17 4	15 7 6	15 10 5
41 „	15 7 10	12 19 10	15 – 11	15 2 5
42 „	14 9 4	12 13 2	14 15 10	14 15 1
May:				
43 „	13 3 1	13 1 7	14 13 2	17 4 9
44 „	14 9 10	13 10 1	14 5 2	16 14 2
45 „	12 16 5	12 3 8	14 10 5	17 4 9
46 „	12 2 6	11 14 4	14 10 5	15 8 6
47 „	12 11 11	11 7 10	14 14 2	15 2 5
June:				
48 „	11 16 4	13 – 8	15 3 10	14 7 4
49 „	17 4 3	12 14 6	16 19 1	14 4 10
50 „	15 7 2	15 5 10	16 15 3	15 2 10
51 „	14 4 10	13 – 3	16 19 –	15 9 3
July:				
52 „	19 4 2	15 14 6	18 12 –	19 – –
£.	775 6 1	768 13 4	863 4 –	870 8 –

In my statement of wages given as paid for the years 1834–5, the total amount was inadvertently given as stated in the farm-books; but on a survey of the Labour Account, it appears that only £. 775. 6. 1. was paid for actual labour, instead of £. 803. 13. 9., the difference being for monies paid for certain items which are unconnected with farm labour.

This Table shows a considerable increase of weekly wages paid in the winter months of the last two years, as compared with those of the two former.

In answer to question 14452, Mr. Eve states, that the increase of £. 22. 13. 11. was wholly paid in wages. The same answer applies to the increased sum paid Mr. Crouch.

FORTY-EIGHTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
11 *July* 1838.

[*Price* 9*d.*]

579.

FORTY-NINTH

REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
11 *July* 1838.

Lunæ, 27° die Novembris, 1837.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act.

Ordered, That the Committee consist of Twenty-one Members:

Lord John Russell.
Mr. Fazakerley.
Mr. Richard Walker.
Mr. Poulett Scrope.
Mr. Baines.
Mr. Bolling.
Mr. Lister.
Sir Thomas Fremantle.
Mr. Barneby.
Mr. Liddell.
Mr. Estcourt (Devizes).
Mr. Ward.
Lord Viscount Howick.
Mr. Wakley.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Miles (Somerset).
Mr. Law Hodges.
Mr. Chichester.
Mr. Slaney.
Mr. Freshfield.
Mr. John Fielden.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 8° die Februarii, 1838.

Ordered, That power be given to the Committee to report the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House.

THE REPORT - - - - - - - - - - - - p. iii
MINUTES OF EVIDENCE - - - - - - - - - p. 1

537

REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Administration of the Relief of the Poor, under the Orders and Regulations issued by the Commissioners appointed under the Provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act; and who were empowered to report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them from time to time to The House:—

HAVE taken some further Evidence, which they have agreed to report to The House.

11 *July* 1838.

WITNESSES.

Mercurii, 11° die Julii, 1838.

Rev. *Richard Horrabin* - - - - - - - - - p. 1

Edwin Chadwick, Esq. - - - - - - - - - p. 4

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Mercurii, 11° *die Julii*, 1838.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Langdale.	Mr. Hodges.
Mr. Slaney.	Mr. Baines.
Viscount Howick.	Mr. T. H. Estcourt.
Mr. P. Scrope.	

J. W. FRESHFIELD, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. *Richard Horrabin*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. *R. Horrabin.*

11 July 1838.

17134. Mr. *Langdale.*] YOU are a Roman catholic clergyman?—I am.

17135. In what part of London are you resident?—In Virginia-street, Well-close-square, in the parish of St. George's-in-the-East.

17136. Are you acquainted with any workhouses in that part of London?—I am; the principal workhouses we have to attend to are St. George's-in-the-East, Wapping, and, before the union, Shadwell; but that is now removed to Ratcliff Cross; there is the Stepney also; all the workhouses from London Bridge, up Fenchurch-street and Mile-end-road, to the right, down to the Regent's Canal, belong to us.

17137. Are you aware whether there are any regulations with regard to the inmates of your religious creed attending your chapels on the Sunday?—I do not know of any public regulations; but at present the inmates are let out to chapel on Sundays.

17138. From all those workhouses?—Yes.

17139. Do you speak of children as well as adults?—No; if there are any children in the poor-houses, they are sent to church.

17140. Do you say that the Roman catholic children attend the established church on Sundays?—Whilst they are in the workhouse; but I beg to make one observation; the children that can walk alone are generally removed to a distance from London; the children of St. George's-in-the-East are removed to Norwood; there are very few children in the house, but what there are attend church.

17141. Are you aware what becomes of those children, when they get to those workhouses, with regard to religious creed?—I cannot give an answer to that question; but there are no attendants from any of those that I know of at our chapels.

17142. Have there been any applications to you on the part of the parents of those children with regard to their religious creed?—I recollect only one instance of a person making an application to me about her girl; I visited her girl, and was allowed to see her, and she learnt her catechism from me; that workhouse belongs to the Moorfields district, in Mile-end Old Town.

17143. Considerable difficulty probably attends the getting to the children thus removed, to give them any instruction?—Very great.

17144. Have you any other information with regard to any other workhouses?—I have.

17145. *Chairman.*] Do the adults go with any person who takes care to see that they go to a Roman catholic chapel?—No, they come by themselves.

17146. Mr. *Langdale.*] On a former examination a difficulty was made, that in case only Roman catholics were allowed to leave the workhouse, there being service in the workhouse performed by a chaplain of the Church of England, there would be a difficulty in finding out who the Roman catholics are; do you apprehend there would be any difficulty in ascertaining such of the inmates as were Roman catholics?—I conceive there would be no difficulty whatever.

 17147. Would

Rev. *R. Horrabin.*

11 July 1838.

17147. Would there be any difficulty in every three months, or at stated periods, taking an account of such of the inmates as were Roman catholics, and giving that list to the master of the workhouse?—I can see no difficulty whatever.

17148. That would obviate any possibility of any individuals saying they were Roman catholics merely for the object of getting out on the Sunday?—Most certainly.

17149. Mr. *Langdale.*] You have some letters; by whom are those letters written; are they from different Roman catholic clergymen?—They are.

17150. To whom are they addressed?—To the Right reverend Doctor Griffiths, Vicar Apostolic of the London District.

17151. Have you any letter there by which it appears that the children are regularly conveyed from the workhouse to their own place of worship and back again without difficulty?—Yes.

17152. From what workhouse is that?—It is from Hammersmith; the writer's name is the reverend Mr. Bellisent; in answer to the question upon the subject he says:—"I am happy to say that the boys are not obliged to attend protestant prayers, and are not prevented from attending the catholic chapel, where they come twice every Sunday; they say their catechism with the other children; there are 15 of them: as to the girls at Fulham, there are only two very little ones; I do not know what to do with them."

17153. Have you any letter which refers to any prohibition or prevention either of adults or children attending service, or interference with their religious principles, either on Sundays or on other days?—There is one from the Rev. A. B. Barber, of Poplar; he says: "In answer to your Lordship's letter of the 26th ultimo, received by me on the 28th, I have to state, that ever since I came to Poplar in October, 1818, the catholic children in Poplar workhouse have been obliged to attend the protestant places of worship, and adults also to be present at protestant service in the afternoon, and occasionally on the week days; the men and women have frequently been allowed to attend my chapel in the morning, but, from the alleged causes of getting drunk, and going to their friends, and the like, they have been frequently prevented for a considerable time;" he says, "in Lime-house there are very few catholics."

17154. Have you another letter to produce?—I have, from the Rev. Peter Butler, of Bermondsey; he says: "There are four workhouses belonging to my chapel, Rotherhithe; one in Russel-street, Bermondsey, and two in Paris-street, Tooley-street." Then he says, "In all the above poor-houses they allow the catholic adults to go to their chapels on Sundays; but the catholic children are not allowed by any of the above workhouses to attend the catholic chapel on any day; they are forced to go to the protestant church; nor are any opportunities given to their priests to teach them their religion; secondly, in the above houses the catholics are forced to attend the public prayers; thirdly, all children of catholics are taken to the protestant church to be baptized; the parents are not allowed to take them to the priest."

17155. *Chairman.*] That refers to infants?—Yes, I presume so.

17156. Mr. *Langdale.*] What is the next letter you have to produce?—I have a letter from the Rev. Thomas Henry Hewart, from Tottenham: the question being put, "Whether any catholic men, women or children in the workhouse attached to your chapel are obliged to attend protestant prayers?" he says, "They are." Then, secondly, "Whether they are prevented from attending the catholic chapel on Sundays and holidays?" the answer is, "In some cases they are, in others not."

17157. Mr. *Slaney.*] What do holidays mean?—Christmas is one, the Epiphany, and so on.

17158. Those are generally week days?—Yes: "But this, I find, after above 11 years' experience as a missioner, depends upon the character, good sense, and disposition of the master of the workhouse." I have another letter from the Rev. Dr. Baldiconi, in Lincoln's Inn Fields: he says, "In the parish of St. Clement's none are allowed to go out on Sundays. Catholic children are brought up in the protestant persuasion; viz., children belonging to catholic parents, and who live in workhouses." The next is from the Rev. J. B. Hearne, at Somers Town: he says, "The children in St. Pancras workhouse are obliged to attend protestant prayers, but the men and women are not obliged to attend them."

17159. Is there any rule with respect to the St. Pancras workhouse in regard to the attending divine service on the Sunday?—The 11th rule is, "The orderly poor

to

Rev. *R. Horrabin.*

11 July 1838.

to be permitted to go out every Sunday for the purpose of attending divine service; they may, if they think proper, go out till eight o'clock in summer and seven o'clock in winter. Parties who do not keep their time, or who return disorderly, are not allowed to go out again for one month. The children are sent to church every Sunday morning and afternoon, under the care of proper persons."

17160. What is the next letter you have to produce?—I have one from the Rev. Thomas Doyle, London-road, St. George's-fields:—"Catholic children in workhouses attend, on all occasions, the prayers and the rest, like the other children; adults, absolutely speaking, are not compelled." There is an observation upon that; he says, "I must observe, that great annoyance may be experienced by the poor inmates of workhouses who refuse to attend the prayer at which the rest of the establishment are present, but no absolute compulsion can be used to enforce their attendance." The next is from the Rev. Edmund Norris, St. Patrick's Chapel, Soho-square: he says, "At Covent Garden workhouse, Cleveland-street, application was made some time back, that its catholic inmates might be allowed to go out for their religious duties on Sundays, and the answer was received by me from some person in authority there, that such request could not be complied with." I have another from the Rev. A. Magee, of Westminster: "The adults are allowed to attend divers places of worship, provided they be well conducted: all the children are obliged to attend the protestant mode of worship." There is another from Mr. Picquot, of the Spanish Chapel, Mary-le-bone parish: "There is a mistake with regard to the inmates going out on Sundays; it is only once in three months." I have another letter from the Rev. C. Shann, of Cheltenham: he says, "Last year I applied to the board of guardians of our union for my poor to attend their own chapel; a negative answer was given for a year or more: I am supporting an orphan girl rather than let her go into the workhouse, where she cannot fulfil her religion: this last Easter I gave communion to a woman at the poor-house, as I could not obtain permission for her to come out even one morning; I do not blame the master for this (for it was to him I applied), but the guardians, who ought to give a discretionary power to every inspector of such establishments; the same method of acting still continues, as far as I know; there is no distinction made, whether the inmates are well conducted or otherwise; our present poor-house is only about five minutes' walk from my chapel: there is no need of the poor of the Established Church to go out, for they have a chaplain allowed for them: I suppose the dissenters are in the same predicament as the catholics."

17161. You are aware, that as the law at present exists, the children ought not to be forced to attend places of worship of a creed different from that of their parents?—Certainly.

17162. Does not it appear, from the letters which you have read, that it is probable that that law is not generally known?—The children do not know it; and I do not suppose it is much known.

17163. Do you not suppose, that in a matter of so much importance, it is desirable that some public notification of the law should be written up in all workhouses?—A very proper thing; the same as was done at Hull when occasion occurred there, by order of the Commissioners, I believe.

17164. Have you any particular suggestions to make to the Committee on this head?—To facilitate the thing, I think when they go into the workhouse they should declare themselves what they are, that it may be known whether they are Roman catholics, and then every three months that they should be investigated again, so that the clergyman should say whether they were Roman catholics.

17165. There is a peculiar obligation upon members of your creed attending a particular service on Sunday, is there not?—There is.

17166. Which service is that?—The morning service.

17167. From the duties which the Roman catholic clergy have to perform in large towns, is it possible that they should dedicate much of their time to attending workhouses during the week?—It is almost impossible.

17168. Is it not therefore peculiarly desirable, that children and other inmates of workhouses should be able to attend their own place of worship, and receive the instructions which are given there on Sunday?—Certainly.

17169. Mr. *Baines.*] You say that it is not that you complain of the law itself, but you complain of the administration of the law in the hands of those to whom that administration is confided?—Certainly.

17170. Is it not stated in one of the letters you read, that the observations as to

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the refusal to allow the Roman catholics to attend their own places of worship, applied also to protestant dissenters?—That the writer supposed so.

17171. In every other respect, except that with the Roman catholics there is a service which they consider of peculiar obligation, the objection to this course would be equally strong with the protestant dissenters as with the Roman catholics?—I presume so.

17172. State the peculiar service to which you refer?—It is one of the commandments of our church, that all persons who have come to years of discretion should hear mass every Sunday and holidays of obligation, such as Christmas day, for example, and there are other days.

17173. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know whether any or either of those places is in what is called a union?—St. George's Parish, of which I am a parishioner myself, I think, is in no union, but the others are; Wapping, Shadwell, Ratcliff, Stepney, Mile-end New Town, and some others, are all in a union.

17174. Have any representations been made to the Poor Law Commissioners upon that which you feel to be an interference with their religious rights?—In the part in which I am, I have no particular complaint to make.

17175. Do you know of any representations being made to the Poor Law Commissioners upon this subject?—I do not, except in the case at Hull; and I think Mr. Nightingale of Woolwich made application, and succeeded, on some point of that kind.

Edwin Chadwick, Esq., made the following Statement:

E. Chadwick, Esq.

THE Committee on their last day of meeting sent the following order to the office, "That there be laid before this Committee a copy of any rules, special or otherwise, of the Poor Law Commissioners in regard to the inmates of workhouses attending divine service on Sundays." In answer to this return, I have to state that there are no other rules than those set forth in the workhouse regulations, but that there has been issued a minute which I will put in with relation to the appointment of chaplains, which sets forth the views of the Commissioners on the subject of religious instruction in workhouses.

17176. Mr. *Langdale.*] And also with regard to their attending divine service on the Sunday out of the workhouse?—Yes.

[*The same were delivered in, and read, as follows:*]

(No. 1.)

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,

Sir, 12 March 1838.

THE Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales have had under their consideration the propriety of permitting, in certain cases, the attendance of the pauper inmates of workhouses on divine worship in churches.

The various union workhouses and the character of their inmates differ in many instances so widely from each other in their position and circumstances, that the Commissioners find it impossible to issue any general rules modifying their workhouse regulations in reference to this subject; but as the Commissioners are of opinion that, under certain circumstances, and in particular cases of exception, such permission may be granted, they deem it advisable, for the guidance of themselves and their Assistant-commissioners, to place upon record their views upon this subject in the following minute:

Resolved,—That if any application be made to the Commissioners for an alteration of the ordinary workhouse regulations in any union, so far as respects the attendance of the workhouse inmates at divine worship in churches, the Commissioners will take such application into their consideration, and will cause inquiry to be made into the following points; (namely)—

1. The extent and nature of the accommodation which the minister and churchwardens of the church of the parish in which such workhouse is situated are willing to provide for the inmates of the workhouse in the church during divine service on Sunday.

2. The distance of such parish church from the workhouse by the road which the inmates would use.

3. The means and regulations proposed to be adopted by the board of guardians for conducting the inmates to and from church, so as to insure a decent and orderly demeanour, and to prevent the abuse of this privilege; and among these means and regulations the Commissioners believe the following to be highly important:

That there should be a fixed hour of departure and return.

That the paupers should be conducted to and from the church by some officer of the union, or other trustworthy person to be selected for the purpose.

That

That a book should be kept, in which shall be entered the name of each adult pauper who goes to church, the time at which he left the workhouse, and the time of his return, with a column for observations; and likewise the numbers of the children who go to church; and that this book be presented to the board of guardians at every weekly meeting.

E. Chadwick, Esq.
11 July 1838.

That if the inquiries above adverted to be satisfactorily answered, the Commissioners will be prepared to make such modifications of the workhouse rules as shall enable the guardians to make arrangements for permitting the children, and the aged paupers of the class to go to church. That the Commissioners would at all times feel more disposed to sanction arrangements of this nature for children than for aged and infirm persons; because,—

1. The children would be more easily conducted to and from the church, and would be less likely to abuse the privilege than certain of the aged paupers.

2. The infirmities of the aged, as a class, would render their attendance during severe weather undesirable, even if the church were near the workhouse.

3. When the church is at any distance from the workhouse the attendance of a considerable portion of the aged would be difficult, if not impossible.

That, with regard to able-bodied paupers, their residence in the workhouse is so transient, and the difficulties of securing good order and a decent demeanour on the way to and from church, and of preventing gross abuse of this privilege, are so very greatly increased by the peculiar characteristics of the classes of persons who, though able-bodied, accept relief within a workhouse, that the Commissioners would not feel justified in permitting any similar modification of the workhouse rules in reference to this class (except in respect to widows with families).

That the views embodied in this resolution, in reference to permitting inmates of workhouses to attend divine worship in church, and the precautions and restrictions adverted to, must be understood as intended to apply equally and in like manner to the case of inmates entertaining other religious opinions, and for whom application shall be made for permission to attend their respective places of worship.

The Commissioners think it right also to state on this occasion their opinion, that whatever arrangements may be ultimately adopted in reference to the attendance of the inmates of a workhouse at church, these arrangements must not be regarded as leading the Commissioners to dispense with the appointment of that important officer, the chaplain of the workhouse.

The Commissioners think that such an appointment is in all cases necessary, for—

1. The superintendence of the moral and religious state of the inmates generally;

2. The direction of the religious instruction of the children; and

3. The administration of spiritual counsel and comfort to the aged, infirm and sick.

The Commissioners therefore consider that the rule for the appointment of a chaplain should in future be made positive and mandatory.

Signed, by order of the Board,

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

To Assistant Poor Law Commissioner

(No. 2.)

APPOINTMENT OF CHAPLAINS TO WORKHOUSES.

Poor Law Commission Office, Somerset House,
14 June 1838.

Sir,

THE Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales transmit for your information and guidance a Supplemental Minute which they have agreed to, in reference to the appointment of chaplains to workhouses.

The Commissioners are aware that in the cases to which that Minute is applicable, and in which the performance of divine service in the workhouse by a chaplain on a Sunday is dispensed with, the question of permitting the able-bodied paupers to go to church may possibly be pressed upon them.

It will rarely happen, however, that able-bodied paupers will remain in the workhouse during a sufficiently long period to make this restriction a just cause of complaint.

Should, however, the residence of any able-bodied pauper in a workhouse thus circumstanced be protracted beyond a few weeks, the Commissioners would not object to the guardians giving such pauper special permission, under proper securities for good behaviour, to attend divine service at a convenient church or chapel.

Signed, by order of the Board,

E. Chadwick, Secretary.

To Assistant Poor Law Commissioner

E. Chadwick, Esq.

11 July 1838.

(No. 3.)

SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTE of the Poor Law Commissioners on the Appointment of Chaplains, dated 14 June 1838.

The Commissioners took into consideration the communications received from the boards of guardians of several unions, requesting that the appointment of a chaplain might be dispensed with.

The tenour of these communications has led the Commissioners to the opinion that there will frequently exist circumstances in which, from the limited number of inmates of the workhouse, and the accommodation which can be afforded in neighbouring places of worship, those who would be prevented by age, bodily infirmity or other circumstances, from going to church, would be so few in number as to render it unadvisable to charge the union with the expense of providing divine service in the workhouse on a Sunday, by means of a paid chaplain.

The Commissioners nevertheless think that in every case some person should be appointed and paid as chaplain to the union workhouse, in order that he may acquire the right and undertake the responsibility of giving spiritual aid and instruction to the sick and to those who cannot go to church, and of superintending the religious instruction of the children who are educated in the workhouse. The Commissioners conceive that a very moderate stipend would be deemed sufficient remuneration for the performance of these functions.

In some such cases the incumbent of the parish wherein the workhouse is situated would probably not find it incompatible with his duties to undertake the superintendence of the workouse to the extent indicated, and the Commissioners would readily sanction an arrangement of this nature.

17177. Mr. *Estcourt.*] Are you aware of applications having been made from ministers of different denominations, complaining that they are not permitted to visit the inmates of workhouses for the purpose of affording religious assistance, or complaining that persons of their denomination have not been permitted to attend their own places of worship?—There have been several applications. I am not prepared to state how many; according to my recollection, some 15 or 20 applications from all the unions throughout the country.

17178. And from ministers of different denominations?—Yes, mostly from dissenters; I think I recollect but two or three occurring, and those in the metropolitan unions, from Roman Catholic clergymen.

17179. Mr. *Langdale.*] Do you remember one from the county of Leicester?—I think I do remember one; those applications on the part of dissenting ministers are not usually in the way of complaint, as having been refused admission to particular inmates of workhouses, but as having been refused permission to attend and address the assembled inmates generally, comprehending those who were not, as well as those who were, dissenters; some of the boards of guardians have denied the right of the dissenting ministers to attend, unless they were sent for by some inmate of their persuasion; the application has been for liberty to attend, even without being sent for.

17180. There may have been other applications from different parts of the country, including Hull, Cheltenham, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, with which you may be unacquainted?—Yes, there may have been those applications; it is probable some of them may have passed through my hands; but not being previously prepared to answer the question, I do not recollect them; in fact, the correspondence is now so multifarious at the office, that it is impossible to recollect with accuracy, so as to meet such questions without preparation.

17181. Mr. *Freshfield.*] Have the Commissioners had under their consideration the propriety of appointing chaplains in all the union workhouses?—That is a question that has been the subject of dispute, and has been recently under their consideration; the question has been brought under their consideration in the shape of objections of boards of guardians, who, in some instances, consist wholly or comprehend a majority of dissenters, and their objection is to the appointment of any chaplain whatsoever.

17182. Those objections have been generally on account of the expense attending such an appointment?—Yes; and the readiness of others to perform the duty gratuitously.

17183. Have the Commissioners also had under their consideration the consequence of appointing chaplains as affecting the members of different sects resident within the workhouses?—They have had that subject under their consideration.

17184. Mr.

17184. Mr. *Baines.*] Are the views of the Commissioners on this subject communicated in that correspondence or those returns that you have now presented? —They are, and more accurately than I could have given it *vivâ voce.*

E. Chadwick, Esq.

11 July 1838.

[*The Witness then read the Return, dated* 12*th March.*]

17185. In that statement which you have just read, there is one passage that appeared to me very dubious in its meaning, it seemed to be doubtful whether the passage meant to state that those who were of the denomination of the Established Church, and those who were not of that denomination should also go there, or that it meant that they should go to their own places of worship; you will find the passage to which I refer, at the latter part of that paper?—This is probably the passage alluded to, "That the views embodied in this resolution, in reference to permitting inmates of workhouses to attend divine worship in church, and the precautions and restrictions adverted to must be understood as intended to apply equally, and in like manner to the case of inmates entertaining other religious opinions, and for whom application shall be made for permission to attend their respective places of worship." I may state, that the Commissioners intend by this, that the like permission should be given to persons of the dissenting persuasion to attend their ministers at their places of worship, that is provided to be given to persons belonging to the Established Church.

17186. So I understand it, but I think the expression is a little dubious?—This letter is directed to the Assistant-commissioners, who would fully understand the Commissioners' meaning on the subject.

FORTY-NINTH REPORT

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT;

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*,
11 *July* 1838.

625.

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TO

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

POOR LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

(1837–8.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 7 *August* 1838.

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6. *Evidence concerning a Petition from that Union presented to Parliament.*

1. *General Administration of the Poor Law therein: effects thereof.*

Summary of evidence relative thereto, *Rep. p.* 13——Administration of relief in the parishes previous to the union; allowance system, workhouse accommodation, &c., *Adey* 5487, 5488——Since the union, the number of aged and infirm receiving relief has been nearly stationary; that of the able-bodied is much reduced, as the guardians have refused them relief out of the workhouse, *Adey* 5495–5500——The guardians are acting upon their own conviction, and not under any orders of the commissioners, *Adey* 5501, 5502——The effect of withdrawing out-door relief has been to increase employment, *Adey* 5503–5505——Wages of day-labour and task-work; the amount of task-work has increased; more children are employed, and the employment of labourers is more constant, *Adey* 5509–5530——There is no difference in the number of children employed; at Christmas many men were out of employment; the young were driven to stealing; families were maintained by straw-plaiting, *Turner* 5831–5849——Employment has rather increased; some have been employed on the railroad, *Turner* 5850–5852.

The peremptory rule is not in force, but the guardians in very few cases give out-door relief to the able-bodied, *Adey* 5757–5762——The strict workhouse principle has never been enforced, *Marshall* 13490–13502——Many able-bodied labourers out of work applied to the board for relief at the last board day (2d May), but none was given; there were several distressing cases, *Turner* 8183–8184——After the completion of the workhouse in February 1836, out-door relief was refused to the able-bodied, and pauperism decreased, *Marshall* 8967–8972; *Musgrave* 13981, 13982——There was a great diminution of out-door paupers before the completion of the workhouse; out-door relief was afterwards withdrawn from the able-bodied, *Marshall* 10086–10104——Until the erection of the union workhouse, the poor were relieved at their own homes, the old workhouse not being large enough to receive them, *Musgrave* 13983–13990——Applications from able-bodied men are not so frequent as formerly, *Overman* 14095.

List of aged and infirm persons who have had their weekly allowances increased up to 31 December 1837, 30th *Rep., App. p.* 27——List of persons under 60 years of age in receipt of out-door relief, 23d December 1837, 29th *Rep., App. p.* 29.

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3. *Duties of Relieving Officer: extent of his District, &c.*

Opinion of the Committee that the district of the relieving officer is too large; observations as to the good character of that officer, *Rep. p.* 16——Propriety of providing a room in every parish for the payment of the poor, *Rep. p.* 16——Feelings of the poor concerning the appointment of Mr. Marshall; they think a person resident in the union would have known their wants and wishes better, *Turner* 6995–7000, 7038–7040——Complaints have been made concerning Mr. Marshall by rate-payers, and discussions have taken place before the board of guardians, *Turner* 7041–7051——Considerable suffering might have been avoided if the care and tenderness recommended by the Commissioners had been observed towards the poor, *Turner* 7180, 7202–7205——His refusal to visit the wife of Bernard Chappel, who was sick, after the medical man had not attended to an order of the overseer, *Turner* 7345–7370.

Central position of Ampthill, both as regards distance and population; distance of the most populous parishes; nature of the roads, *Marshall* 8973–8988——Manner in which he visits the several parishes to pay the poor; length of his visits; places at which he receives applications, *Turner* 6986–6992——Cases in which he visits the cottages of the poor, *Marshall* 9033–9039, 9225–9227——Does not visit any of the parishes unexpectedly as a general rule, but does occasionally, *Marshall* 9201–9208——It is desirable that families should be visited frequently, in order to observe changes in their circumstances, *Marshall* 9219–9224——As a general rule, arrives at the appointed hour in each parish; but if he is later than usual, the poor suffer no inconvenience, *Marshall* 10028–10038——He has sufficient time to make all necessary inquiries, *Marshall* 10168–10178——

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Ampthill Union:—3. *Duties of Relieving Officer: extent of his District, &c.*—continued.

Duties of the relieving officer enumerated; times at which he visits the several parishes of the union, and places at which he pays the poor, *Marshall* 9017-9081. 9091-9200——Form of the diary of relieving officer, 29th *Rep. App. p.* 29.

4. *Election of Guardians.*

The rate-payers pay little attention to the election of guardians; they have no control over the distribution of the rates, *Turner* 7206-7210——No guardians were elected at Shitlington or Westoning at the late election, *Musgrave* 13608-13610.

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Ampthill Union Workhouse. Was built larger than was necessary by the board, in opposition to the opinion of Mr. Adey, the assistant commissioner, *Overman* 11479-11482——No complaints have been made of the dietary; it is sufficient to keep the able-bodied in perfect health, *Adey* 5763-5773——The paupers, on leaving the workhouse, have complained of the insufficiency of the food, but not of its quality; they were better fed than when at home, *Turner* 5857-5869——Ingredients in the pea-soup; objections to the compound, *Turner* 5989-5993——The dietary is insufficient, although there are four more ounces of bread than at St. George's, Hanover-square; there is not enough, *Turner* 8233-8239——Further comparison of the dietaries of Ampthill and St. George's, Hanover-square, workhouses; both dietaries are insufficient, *Turner* 8544-8568——The old people are not allowed, under any circumstances, to go out of the workhouse without the consent of the guardians, *Turner* 8543——An able-bodied man would be allowed to leave the workhouse for a few hours or a day to look for work, *Turner* 8573-8574——Is well regulated, and in good order; the paupers are remarkably healthy; complaints are made of the dietary, but witness is convinced, by experiment, that it is sufficient, *Whitehurst* 11260-11268——The children are allowed to walk out, and are very healthy, *Whitehurst* 11269-11270.

Dietary of the workhouse as directed by the Poor Law Commissioners, 19th *Rep. App. p.* 27——Dietary for able-bodied men and women in the Ampthill Union workhouse, 20th *Rep. App. p.* 18.

Ampthill Union Workhouses. Return of the number of workhouses; in what parish each is situate; the dietaries and classification of each workhouse; and stating what alterations have been made in the dietary and classification since the formation of the union, 20th *Rep. App. p.* 18.

Ampthill Workhouse (*Parish*). Very nearly the same system was introduced there as that under the Poor Law Act; it was not used as a test, *Adey* 5492-5493.

Appleby Workhouse. See *Gilbert Union Workhouses.*

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1. *Generally.*
2. *Ampthill Union.*
3. *Berks and Oxfordshire.*
4. *Camberwell.*
5. *Lancashire and West Riding of Yorkshire.*
6. *Woburn Union.*

1. *Generally.*

Observations of the Committee concerning the mode of making applications for relief; remarks on the evidence, *Rep.* 16, 17——Applications must be made, in the first instance,

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instance, to the relieving officer, who reports them to the board; if an applicant is dissatisfied with their decision, he may attend himself, *Gulson* 114–126——All applications to the relieving officer must be reported to the board, whether granted or refused by him, *Gulson* 182–189.

2. *Ampthill Union.*

Mode of making applications to the board; they must first be made to the relieving officer; ignorance of the poor as to this form; conduct of the relieving officer in respect of applications, *Turner* 6845-6993——There are no cases in which the board have refused to see persons when their names were entered in the application book, nor in which the relieving officer has refused or neglected to enter names therein, *Turner* 6883, 6884——It is reasonable that application should first be made to the relieving officer, who should explain the rule to the poor, who are ignorant of the necessary form, *Turner* 6901–6917. 6968-6970——The relieving officers receive positive instructions to report all applications to the board at their next weekly meeting, *Turner* 6972–6978——Applications are usually made to the relieving officer on the board-day; when he is not acquainted with the case, a provisional order is made, and he gives relief until the next meeting of the board, *Marshall* 8991–8998——The pauper always appears before the board, and after he has retired, the relieving officer is examined, *Marshall* 8999——If he applies after the application-book has been laid before the board, he must come on the next board-day; in cases of urgency, relief is given in the meanwhile, *Marshall* 9010–9013. 9360–9366.

The relieving officer never exercises his discretion as to who shall be admitted to the board; the guardians will not hear cases again which have already been decided, unless some new circumstance arises, *Marshall* 9394–9400, 9425–9434——The relieving officer never refuses to receive applications while visiting a parish, *Marshall* 9435, 9436——Applications are received from the mother of the family in the necessary absence of the father, but are preferred from the latter, as he is held responsible, *Marshall* 9490, 9491——Are not entered in the application-book, unless the relieving officer is acquainted with the case, but are inserted in his private memoranda, *Marshall* 10121–10126——They are not reported to the board, except in cases of sickness, unless the parent himself is present, *Marshall* 10229–10234——Manner in which the board take cases into consideration; forms gone through, *Marshall* 10235, 10236——Whether the relieving officer ever prevents applicants getting access to the board, *Overman* 14120–14123——When the board consider an application, the case is investigated in the presence of the pauper, *Marshall* 10142–10153.

3. *Berks and Oxfordshire.*

Applications are invariably made by the pauper in person, and not through the relieving officer, *Hall* 2817–2819.

4. *Camberwell.*

The board see all the applicants, and would dismiss any officer found preventing their access, *Storie* 13311–13313.

5. *Lancashire and West Riding of Yorkshire.*

The poor are invited to attend the board, and state their own case, *Power* 3392.

6. *Woburn Union.*

The necessity of applying to the relieving officer in the first instance, has been no obstacle to the appearance of paupers before the board, *Pearce* 10866–10870.

Apprentices (*Leeds.*) The boys and girls educated in the workhouse are put out as apprentices to the occupiers of premises in the township; a parishioner refusing to take them, is liable to a penalty of 10 *l.*, *Johnson* 4083-4088——They are frequently imposed on persons who do not require their services; this practice is not likely to beget a kind feeling between master and apprentice, *Johnson* 4086–4088.

Apprenticeship. Compulsory apprenticeship is nowhere resorted to; when apprentices are taken without a premium, they are permitted to go, *Gulson* 967–971——The premiums given by the parish under the old system, obliged the independent labourer to give premiums with his children; these will not be given any more, *Gulson* 990——This pernicious system arose out of the absence of a proper plan of industrial training in parochial workhouses; expenses of premiums in Norfolk and Suffolk, *Kay* 4416–4418——The premium was an inducement to persons of small means to take apprentices without requiring their services; the parish did not pay any regard to the welfare of the children, *Kay* 4419——An improvement in the system would be, to give the master a premium after a child had been a certain time in his service, instead of giving it at first, *Kay* 4478, 4479——Fines for not receiving parish apprentices; their application; the system was unpopular amongst occupiers, and injurious to the children, *Kay* 4488, 4489.

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Apprentices were sent to the factories by rural parishes before the new Poor Law; they were under the protection of the parish authorities, *Turner* 7769-7774——They are not usually taken from among agricultural labourers; it is generally found that boys are brought up to follow their father's trade, *Hickson* 13229, 13230.

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Armsden, Edward, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearce, into a Comparative Statement delivered in by Mr. Turner, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep, App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement received from his employers as to the amount of his earnings in 1837; the scale applied to those of his wife and family, *Pearce* and *Marshall* 12607-12612——Comparative statement drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53——Examination proving an error in the table of his earnings, *Turner* 8389-8391.

Armstrong, Samuel, Surgeon at Melton. Paper communicated by him relative to the establishment of medical clubs in the Woodbridge Union, 17th *Rep. App. p.* 29——Statement concerning medical clubs established by him in various parishes; their success; remuneration greater than can be paid by individual labourers, *Kay* 44th *Rep. App. p.* 21.

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Assistant Commissioners. Remarks of the Committee on returns furnished by them, *Rep. p.* 12——It is their duty to secure adequate relief in individual cases, as well as to prevent waste of the parish funds, *Gulson* 915, 916——Frequent visits to the workhouse when not expected, also part of their duty, *Gulson* 918.

Assistant Overseers. Every parish ought to have a paid officer, an assistant overseer, to assist the overseers, *Nixon* 16319-16322——In the south of England there were no paid officers, but in the large townships of the north there are many whose duties in collecting the rate are more onerous than in distributing relief, *Power* 2894-2896——The collection is made from a vast number of tenements, and the making of lists of parliamentary and municipal voters occasions great trouble, *Power* 2900——The appointment of assistant overseers for districts of small townships has been recommended, *Power* 2901.

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Balls, John, of Flitwick. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Banbury Union. In the Banbury union one surgeon, in 1836, held two districts, containing 33 parishes, at great distances from his residence, *Rumsey* 14758——Modifications which have taken place in this union on the subject of medical districts, *Rumsey* 14767——Has been divided into four districts, instead of eight; but there are still districts in which patients are eight miles from a medical attendant, *Rumsey* 14770, 14771——Reductions which have taken place in the number of medical officers, *Rumsey* 14783.

Baptisms. There is a strong feeling among the poor, of the necessity of having their children baptized before death; they apply to the clergyman to have them baptized immediately in cases of danger, *Turner* 7322, 7323.

Barham Workhouse (*Suffolk.*) System of industrial training adopted; domestic occupations of the girls; mechanical arts in which the boys are instructed, cultivation of garden ground, &c., *Kay* 4406.

Barnett, A. His letter to the chairman, on the case of Mary Howes, alleged to have been ill-treated in Nottingham workhouse, 22d *Rep., App. p.* 29.

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Basford Incorporation. Remarks of the committee on the evidence relating thereto, *Rep. p.* 20.——Under the old system, contained 54,000 persons, and included 40 parishes; its present population is 51,000, *Nixon* 16106. 16304.

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2. *Attendance of the Guardians.*
3. *Construction of "Cases of Emergency therein."*
4. *Relieving Officers, and their Districts.*
5. *Medical Officers, and Districts.*

1. *Comparative Expenses of the old and new Systems.*

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II. *Present mode of administering the Law.*

1. *Generally.*
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II. *Present mode of administering the Law.*

1. *Generally.*

The magistrates are applied to to enforce orders upon the putative fathers of bastards born before the Poor Law Act; those born after the Act, are not admitted into the workhouse, without the mother, *Gulson* 1647–1654——Appeals to quarter sessions have not been resorted to, *Hall* 2379–2381——In relieving a mother, the practice is, to give her an order for the house, together with her child; she could not be detained if she chose to leave the house without the child, *Hall* 2412–2417——She might be punished, under the Vagrant Act, if an order of affiliation had been made, *Hall* 2425–2429——The principle of the law is, that a woman with a child, being in a destitute state, shall be subject to the same treatment, whether the child be legitimate or illegitimate, *Hall* 2418, 2419.

Orders made upon the putative fathers, before the passing of the Poor Law Act, are not enforced; they were made for the indemnification of the parish, not the mother, and may be waived by them, if they think fit, *Hall* 2430–2438——The orders made by magistrates were for the indemnity of the parish; the relief given to the mother was after proof of her indigence, without reference to the orders, *Kay* 6737——Some unions have resolved, that all applications made by women with bastards, should be met by an offer of relief in the workhouse, *Hall* 2439–2442——There is nothing in the Poor Law Act to exclude a woman with a bastard child from the general operation of the law, which refuses out-door relief to the able-bodied, *Kay* 4737——It would be very injurious to grant relief in a more desirable manner to the mother of a bastard, than to a widow with a child, *Kay* 4744.

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Mode of administering the bastardy law in Norfolk and Suffolk, *Kay* 4724–4729——The guardians have applied for orders of affiliation in very few cases, *Kay* 4741, 4742——Causes of the large proportion of bastards to other children in the workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk, *Kay* 4730–4732.

III. *Practice under the old Law.*

Average amount of allowances paid by putative fathers under the old bastardy laws frequently more than sufficient to support the child, *Hall* 2383–2400——Under the old system the money paid by the father was an indemnity to the parish, but the mother invariably received it; she was liable to imprisonment, but this punishment was rarely

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BASTARDY:—III. *Practice under the old Law*—continued.

inflicted, *Whitehurst* 11199–11201——Payment was enforced against the man by imprisonment, but might be avoided by marrying the woman, which the parish endeavoured to induce him to do, *Whitehurst* 11206–11208——Such marriages are not conducive to morality, which is advanced by throwing upon the woman the responsibility of her own conduct, *Whitehurst* 11209–11215——Persons who have had an illicit connexion, had better be separated than forced to marry, *Whitehurst* 11231–11233——By the old law, fathers could only be imprisoned when they had no goods, but they were generally living with their parents, and frequently received their wages from the parish, *Whitehurst* 11229, 11230——Difficulty under the old law of obtaining payment from the fathers who left the parish; charge on the parish books at Lambeth on that account, *Shadbolt* 13287.

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1. *Generally.*

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2. *In the Ampthill Union.*

From conversations with intelligent persons, witness has collected, that bastardy has increased, *Turner* 7318–7330——In Westoning has rather increased; it has kept pace with the increase of population, *Pearce* 9931——Before the Poor Law Act births were much more notorious than at present; there is now no inducement to tell the overseer; many are omitted in the returns, *Turner* 8617——The women attribute the increase of bastardy to the advantage which men have taken of having nothing to pay, *Turner* 8618, 8619.

Is not so common as it was; the alteration in the law has not led to infanticide, *Whitehurst* 11136–11138, 11234–11238——Women have become more prudent; the old law was an encouragement to bastardy, *Whitehurst* 11191–11193. 11213–11215——The bastardy clauses have not produced any spirit of hostility to the Poor Law Act; many very humane persons approve of them, *Whitehurst* 11191–11193.

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Bean-setting. Statement of John Heaton, a labourer of Westoning, of the reduction of the task-work price of bean-setting per bushel, *Turner* 8214——Price paid per bushel for bean-setting in 1834 and 1837, *Pearse* 9925——It is lower this than other years; for the land was so pulverized by the frost, that it was a better job for a man at 4*s.* than it was last year at 7*s.*, *Overman* 11358, 11359.

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Bedford, Duke of. Statement of his Grace's labourers, that their condition has been rendered worse by the new Poor Law, *Crabtree* 8770.

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Bedford Union. An application was made by the guardians to the Poor Law Commissioners to exclude writing as part of the education of children in the workhouse, and was denied, *Hall* 2543, 2544——Number of workhouses; in what parish each is situate; the dietaries and classification in each; alterations made in the dietary and classification since the formation of the union, 20th *Rep., App. p.* 20.

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Benefit Societies. Beneficial effects of the law which enables workmen to subscribe to a fund for assistance while out of work, to be deposited in savings banks, &c., *Gulson* 798-802——The new law induces men to belong to these societies, the old law deterred them from it, *Gulson* 803-806——Their rules are so framed as to make it the interest of every member not to receive relief from the society so long as he can earn his usual wages, *Gulson* 816-819——Number of benefit societies enrolled in each year since 1829, before and since the Poor Law Act, *Pratt* 1664——The Poor Law Act has increased the deposits; under the old administration of the Poor Law, a man derived no benefit from belonging to benefit societies, *Pratt* 1671-1673—— Are much encouraged, and are going on satisfactorily, *Gulson* 1932, 1933.

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Bennett, Thomas, of Marston. Extract of a letter from him, stating the rate of wages paid by him; condition of the poor, and whether in full employ, *Overman* 11398.

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Bennett, Mr., *of Beckering's Park.* Extract of a letter from him, stating the amount paid for labour on a farm of 467 acres for the last six years, 1832–1837, *Overman* 11377.

Berkshire. The whole county is now divided into unions, and the workhouses built, *Hall* 2408–2411.

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Bermondsey. Local Act in force there, under which the church is supported out of the poor-rate, *Mott* 12003 ——The trustees have now but little to do, as their duties are transferred to the guardians, *Mott* 12003, 12004——Insufficient audit of their accounts; expense of two sets of officers, *Mott* 12005–12007.

Bermondsey Workhouse. Letter from Rev. Peter Butler on the religious instruction of Roman Catholics therein, *Harabin* 17154.

Biggleswade Workhouse. The old men are allowed to go out when they choose, keeping regular order, *Turner* 8543.

Bigsby, Dr. Extract from a pamphlet by Dr. Bigsby, stating expense of medicine per case in various dispensaries, *Farr* 15800.

Billington, Sarah. A widow living at Cranfield (Ampthill Union); applied to Mr. Thomas, a guardian, who directed her to attend the board, to which she was denied admittance by the relieving officer, *Turner* 6868–6883. 6917–6933——She was not admitted to the board, because her application had already been decided five or six weeks before, *Marshall* 9401–9424. 10156–10163——Her case further inquired into, *Marshall* 13566–13575. 13579–13583.

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Blackburn Union. Many hand-loom weavers are receiving weekly allowances in aid of wages; the guardians have declared that they will not continue this relief to the younger men, who can find more profitable employments, *Power* 3303-3304.

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Blything Union. Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse, December 1837, 14th *Rep., App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, *ib. p.* 33——Table of the rate of wages and classified result of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, *ib. p.* 37——Tables of mortality in the workhouse at different periods, *ib. pp.* 42–45.

Bonner, Family, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing the comparative condition of Crawley, Jacob, Peter, Samuel and William Bonner, with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of their respective families, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Comparative statement drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 53.

Bonner, Crawley. Statement of his earnings in 1837, as received from his employer; his wife is the post-woman of the place, sells shop-goods, but would give no account whatever, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12539–12541.

Bonner, Jacob, of Westoning. Comparative statement of the earnings of himself and family in 1837, as collected from himself and wife, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12172–12176 ——His family were brought up to lace-making, but have lately changed to straw-plaiting, *Pearse* 12766–12768.

Bonner, Peter, of Westoning. The statement as respects his earnings, &c. cannot be correct, because he assisted his father at turnip-hoeing and in setting wheat, for which he received 9*l.* 7*s.*; therefore 6*l.* 10*s.* would be but a small proportion of his earnings; supposed earnings of his family, *Marshall* 9854-9865——Comparative statement of the earnings of himself and family in 1837; amount received by him from the parish, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12207–12222.

Bonner, Samuel. An aged labourer of Westoning; his allowances, employment, earnings, family, and circumstances; reasons for discontinuing his allowance, *Turner* 7386. 7463–7507——Explanation of circumstances connected with the receipt of a parish allowance by him during the time he was employed with his sons by the Duke of Bedford, *Turner* 8185–8207——He is not incapable of work; he is very deaf; in April last, himself and son set 50 acres of wheat in six weeks, *Marshall* 9516, 9517; *Pearse* 9518-9530——Account of sums paid to him by Mr. Peters, of Hasborne Crawley, and J. Gibbons, of Tingrith, for setting wheat, and turnip hoeing, 29th *Rep. App. p.* 31——It is impossible to get at the amount of this man's earnings; he has no family; he has the privilege of cutting turf for fuel, and he sells the ashes after consuming the turf, *Pearse* and *Marshall*, 12190–12202.

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Bonner, William, of Westoning. He has a cottage right, and keeps cows and pigs; refused to give any information with respect to his earnings; he is employed occasionally as a thresher, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12223–12229.

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Boston Union (*Lincolnshire*). Inconveniences arising from the jurisdiction of the same magistrates not extending over the whole union, *Gulson* 1404.

Bosmere and Claydon Union. The poor are all paid in their own cottages, and are visited at least once and some of them twice a week by the relieving officer, *Kay* 5022—— Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse, December 1837, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, *ib. p.* 33——Table of the rate of wages, and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, *ib. p.* 37——Tables of mortality in the workhouse at different periods, *ib. p.* 42–45.

Bourn Union. Measures adopted for the suppression of vagrancy, *Gulson* 1956–1961—— Mr. Bell's statement respecting the temporary inn-door relief offered to able-bodied men during the last frost, *Gulson* 16383——Circular addressed by the clerk of the union to churchwardens and overseers of the several parishes, *Rep. App. p.* 43——Forms of orders for medical relief and funerals, *Rep. App. p.* 44——Notice to applicants for relief in the Deeping district, *Rep. App. p.* 44.

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Bradfield Union. Out-door relief has been refused to widows with large families; there have been cases of suffering; whether the practice be expedient, *Hall* 2740–275 —— Modifications which have taken place in this union as to medical districts, *Rumsey* 14767.

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BRADFORD UNION:

1. *Comparative Expenditure before and since the Union.*
2. *Relieving Officers: their Duties, &c.*
3. *Opposition to the Poor Law Act: its unpopularity.*

1. *Comparative Expenditure before and since the Union.*

Average expenditure before the formation of the union; amount in each of the three years preceding, *Power* 3132, 3133——Average expenditure per head upon the whole population; estimated expense of establishment charges, *Power* 3318–3325——Establishment charges amounted to 11 per cent. on the whole expenditure before the union, and to 12 per cent. since, *Power* 3605——The rates will be increased by the operation of the new law; more relief is given to some of the paupers, and the establishment is greater, *Ellison* 5419–5424.

2. *Relieving Officers: their Duties, &c.*

Number of relieving officers; population, average and amount of pauperism; there are also nine assistant overseers; whether there be relieving officers enough, *Power* 3326–3341——Salaries of the assistant overseers and relieving officers, *Power* 3342–3345—— Complaints made of the slackness of the relieving officers' visits to parishes for the payment of the poor, *Ellison* 5433, 5434.

3. *Opposition to the Poor Law Act: its unpopularity.*

The magistrates were opposed to the new law on its first introduction, and are now in favour of it; administration of relief is satisfactory, *Power* 3502–3519—— Further

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examination as to the change of opinion in a magistrate of the Bradford Union concerning the new law, *Power* 3970–3978——Information has been received from the guardians that the new law is satisfactory; difficulty of ascertaining the opinions of the rate-payers, *Power* 3979——The disturbances took place before the Poor Law Act had been brought into operation; since the guardians have administered relief, there has been the most perfect tranquillity, *Power* 3245–3247.

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Excitement that prevailed on the subject of the new law; petitions numerously signed have been presented against it; meeting at Hartshead Moor, *Bull* 6241–6264——There will be imminent danger in enforcing the new law; the feelings of opposition are only lying dormant for the present, *Bull* 6322–6333——The feeling of opposition has not abated, *Bull* 6706——All persons, whether owners of property, rate-payers or artizans, are interested in opposing the Poor Law Act, *Bull* 6738–6744——As yet the guardians have a discretionary power to give out-door relief, but the inhabitants apprehend that the workhouse will be eventually made the universal test of destitution to the able-bodied, *Bull* 6237–6240.

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Bread. The price of bread as purchased by contract for workhouses is no criterion of the price paid by the poor, *Turner* 8318–8322——Difference in the price of a loaf purchased by contract and at a shop in the Ampthill Union, *Marshall* 9842–9844——Relief in kind is given according to the value of the money; if bread is cheap, the difference is given in money, *Marshall* 9845, 9846——The practice of giving relief in bread is advantageous; the family are more certain of receiving it, *Marshall* 9847, 9848.

Brewer, Joel, of Cranfield. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837, earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 24.

Bridgwater. Present arrangements as to medical attendance on the poor in this district very unsatisfactory, *Toogood* 15894.

Brinckley, James. A labourer of Westoning; average income of his family per head, *Turner* 7958, 7959——Examination as to other sources of income; buying and selling rags and hare-skins; distressed circumstances of his family, *Turner* 7989–8023——This man earns the average wages of a labourer almost all the year round; ages of his children; the board advanced him money to set up a basket as a dealer in hare-skins and rags, *Marshall* 9742–9757; *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12429–12431——Was most offensive in his manner to witness, and refused to answer any questions, *Pearse* 10749, 12430.

Brinckley, James and Thomas. Tabular statement, showing their comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of their families, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

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The Lord Lieutenant of the west riding of Yorkshire declined to call the meeting on Hartshead Moor; it was called in the name of the requisionists, 6516-6520——Violent expressions made use of by persons who attended the meeting 6521-6533——Plans of union workhouses were exhibited by Mr. Thompson, and remarks made by him, 6534-6544——The workhouse test should not be applied even to the profligate; if a man neglects his family, the law should punish him, 6549-6552——Witness believes that the circumstances related by Mary Howes, actually occurred in the Nottingham workhouse before the union was formed, 6554-6570——Violent language of witness justified, 6571-6578——The newspapers have contained many charges of abuse against the Poor Law; the Poor Law Commissioners have great means for inquiring into the truth of them; the majority have never been contradicted, 6579-6589——It is right that the Commissioners should investigate them; reasons why witness refused to give them information when required, 6590-6605——The press may be made available to contradict, as well as to circulate, statements; the majority of statements injurious to the new law have not been contradicted, 6606, 6607.

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Before the Poor Law Act there was frequently great distress at Bradford, which was relieved partly out of the poor-rate and by voluntary subscription, 6661-6666——Effects of the poor law, and migration, upon wages in the rural and manufacturing districts respectively, 6667-6677——Employment of children in factories; the parents are frequently dependent upon them, 6678-6683——The people believe that the Poor Law Act is intended to reduce wages, 6685-6686——Witness's apprehensions of the effect of introducing the Poor Law Act in the north, 6687-6698——The abuses that existed in the south did not extend to the north, neither did the former require such a remedy as the Poor Law Act, 6699-6705——The feeling of opposition to it has not abated in Bradford, 6706-6712——Power of the Commissioners compared with that of other courts, 6713-5719——There would have been no riots at Bradford, if the military and London police had not been brought into the town, 6720-6737——All persons in Bradford, owners of property, rate-payers and artisans, are interested in opposing the Poor Law Act, 6738-6744——If it is persevered in in the north, it will lead to bloodshed; propriety of avoiding inflammatory language, 6745-6749.

Bull, Rev. Mr. Observations of the Committee upon his evidence, *Rep. p.* 13——Extract from his letter to the chairman, giving the names of persons referred to by him at a meeting at Bradford as having been oppressed by the operation of the Poor Law Act, 26th *Rep. p.* iv——Letter to the chairman on the subject of Mr. Barnett's letter respecting the case of Mary Howes, 22d *Rep. App. p.* 29.

Bunker, James and John, of Milbrook. Comparative statement of their condition in 1834 and 1837, earnings of family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Bunker, Joseph, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry by Mr. Pearse into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as relates to 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 58, 59——Information received from his employer as to his earnings, &c. in 1837, *Marshall* and *Pearse* 12520-12525——Comparative statement drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 53.

Bunker, Susan. Denied admittance to the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union by the relieving officer, *Turner* 6835-6844——She was unable to procure medical relief for her son; a coffin was allowed when he died; remark of the relieving officer on that occasion, *Turner* 6934-6947——She applied not for medical, but for out-door relief for her son while the board was sitting, and, contrary to the usual practice, was admitted; her

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her son was offered the workhouse infirmary, and why, *Marshall* 9353-9359, 9367-9377——Her application for payment to the women who laid out her son; conversation with the relieving officer; the woman would have been paid if she had applied to the overseer *Marshall* 9378-9380, 9387-9393—— Her case further considered, *Marshall* 13538-13544. 13546-13563.

Bunker, Thomas, of Westoning. An aged and infirm labourer; his allowances before the union; subsequent reductions and discontinuance; his character, family, employment, earnings, &c., *Turner* 7508-7542——He is not quite able to provide for himself; he is the village barber; also a good chaff-cutter, and works in the gardens of several of the gentlemen in the village, *Marshall* 9654-9657.

Bunker, Thomas and William, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing their comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of their family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement of the earnings, &c. of themselves and family in 1837; information as to earnings was obtained from employer; the scale applied towards the earnings of the family, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12203-12206. 12532-12538——Comparative statement drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 53.

Bunyan, Thomas and William, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing the comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement of the income of these persons and family in 1837; information as to earnings received from employers, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12526-12531——Comparative statement drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 53.

Burbage (Leicestershire.) Source from which witness's information was derived; examinaiton thereupon respecting the distribution of out-door relief there, *Hall* 16957-16969——Denial of statements made by Mr. Hall concerning the payment of paupers by a carrier at a public-house, *Swain* 16825-16838.

Burial of Paupers. Recommendations of the Committee relative thereto, *Rep. p.* 37——Witness has heard no complaints relative to the funerals of paupers in his district, *Hall* 2488.

Bedfordshire: Persons dying in the workhouse, are buried in their own parishes; they are taken in hearses provided for the purpose; the funerals are conducted with proper decency, *Adey* 5797-5803——Manner in which funeral expenses are defrayed in Ampthill Union, *Marshall* 9381-9386.

Burnage, Joseph, of Shitlington. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep., App. p.* 25.

Burton-upon-Trent Self-supporting Dispensary. Statement of the expenditure for the years ending 31 October 1836 and 31 October 1837, 17th *Rep., App. p.* 30; *Kay*, 44th *Rep., App. p.* 22.

Bury. Much popular dissatisfaction has existed with reference to the Poor Law, through a very active agitation, *Power* 3165.

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Camberwell Parish. Different systems of administering medical relief to the poor in this parish during the last 20 years, *Webster* 15174-15185.

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Camberwell Union. The union presides over its own parish only, *Storie* 13301——Population, 38,000; extent, 22 miles in circumference, *Storie* 13304, 13305——One relieving overseer is found sufficient to discharge the duty, *Storie* 13307——He always goes to the house of the applicant, *Storie* 13309——Comparative state of the rates before and since the introduction of the Poor Law, *Storie* 13314, 13315——The reduction of rates since the new Poor Law has been in force, caused no provocation to the poor, *Storie* 13316——The moral habits and temporal comforts of the poor have been much improved by the self-reliance the new law imposes, *Storie* 13320-13329——Report from the board of guardians established November 1835 in St. Giles, Camberwell, with tabular statements attached, *Storie* 13363.

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Camberwell Workhouse. Very few able-bodied paupers enter the workhouse; they remain a short time only, *Storie* 13369-13373——Classification is observed; there is no school, the children being sent to Norwood, *Storie* 13374-13376.

Cambridge County. Amount of poor-rate per head on the population in 1834 and 1836, *Power* 3832.

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Canterbury Infirmary. Table, showing the number of out and in-door patients treated; total cost of vials, drugs, leather skins, &c., leeches, spirits, surgical instruments, &c., 46th *Rep., App. p.* 143.

Capon, John, of Lidlington. Earnings of himself and family, as derived from his employer, *Overman* 14608-14616——Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep., App. p.* 24.

Capsicums. Extent to which this medicine is frequently adulterated by drug grinders, *Thomson* 15542.

Carbonate of Zinc. As it occurs in commerce, contains very little zinc; adulteration may be easily detected, *Thomson* 15542.

Carlford Hundred. See *Colneis and Carlford Hundreds.*

Carlton Workhouse. Capable of containing 80 inmates; belongs to 40 townships, with 50,000 inhabitants, some of which are in Leeds, six or seven miles distant, *Power* 3667-3668.

Carr, John, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry by Mr. Pearse into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58. 59——Statement as to the amount of the earnings of himself and family in 1837; information derived from himself and his employer, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12644-12649——Comparative statement drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

Carter, John, of Westoning. A labourer; his age; number of children; wages; rent; earnings of the family at straw-plaiting and at harvest, &c., *Turner* 6081-6105. 6168-6192——Calculations in detail of the income and expenditure of his family in 1834 and 1837, *Turner* 6751-6776——Tabular statement of his earnings in 1834, 23d *Rep., App. p.* 34—— Observation on his wife's earnings, *Marshall* 9326——Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement of the result of an inquiry into the various items of the above statement by Mr. Pearse, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57——His earnings while in the employ of Colonel Seymour, and since; he receives 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week for task-work, *Pearse* 9896-9898——Statement of the earnings of himself and family, as collected from his employer, &c., *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12163-12171——Comparative statement drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 53.

Carters. Are not the most highly paid labourers in Norfolk; general rate of wages earned by them, *Kay* 4886.

Casualties. Remuneration for fractures and dislocations should be considered separate items of charge in medical districts, which would insure better attention, *Ceely* 15518——On the same principle that midwifery cases are separated from general payments, *Ceely* 15521——Reasonable proposition that the cases of casualties occurring beyond an ascertained list should be paid for separately, *Kay* 16054——Witness would not separate accidents occurring to permanent poor, who would not be generally liable to accidents, *Kay* 16102.

Ceely, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Aylesbury, 15227——One of the surgeons of the Buckinghamshire infirmary at Aylesbury, 15231——Nature of the parochial arrangements at Aylesbury 20 years since, 15235——The tender system has, since that time, had a very bad effect upon the interests of the poor and practitioners, 15236——Statement of the medical men to the board of guardians, objecting to the per case mode of remuneration, 15239——Strangers were then introduced into Aylesbury, two from London and one from Tring, 15242——Evidence as to medical arrangements on the Aylesbury district, 15243. 15299——Evidence as to topographical position of the union, 15300——Rate of wages varies considerably, 15302——Circumstances of labouring classes bad; intellectual qualities small; a poor sickly race, 15305-15310——The guardians take able-bodied labourers into the workhouse, and relieve wives and children at home, when the father is unemployed, 15325, 15326——Saving of rates effected by the poor law amounts to 50*l.* per cent. in witness's county, 15327, 15328.

Reasons why capital saved, not generally applied to the soil, 15331——All the labourers might be profitably employed, where it not for the parsimoniousness of those who possess funds, 15335, 15336. 15340——The poor generally not much better or worse for the new

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Ceely Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Poor Law Act; but the moral condition much improved, as what wages are now got, are wages for labour, 15348.

Principal diseases which occur in the Aylesbury district are fevers, intermitting, remitting and continued, and affections of the mucous membrane; these have their origin in the dampness and retentive character of the soil, 15368–15370——Closeness of attendance required on these complaints, 15374——The poor require more attendance than the wealthier classes, their diseases being more severe and prolonged, 15379, 15380——Previous to the union, the medical attendance on the poor was provided by contract or tender, parochially administered, 15385——Such an arrangement was satisfactory, previous to the unfortunate competition which existed prior to the introduction of the new law, 15388——Advantages of small districts, especially in enabling medical men to stimulate private charity more effectually than they can in large unions, 15396–15398——In the Leighton Union there is an individual engaged to attend exclusively on the poor; he is prohibited from private practice, 15404——The practice of tenders has had a most mischievous effect in getting a lower class of medical practitioners to practise among the poor, 15406——Any mode of election, tending to injure the character of a medical practitioner, must have a bad operation upon the poor, 15411——Witness would have medical men responsible to the local authorities; any arrangements which would not produce individual responsibility, must be defective, 15415, 15416.

Witness's general objections to contracts by tender for the medical treatment of the poor, 15417–15426——Witness has no objection to the weekly returns; to a certain extent, they are useful, 15427——System of tender calculated to prevent men of high character from offering their services, 15432——Under the present system, greater facilities to the poor obtaining medical assistance, should be offered than now exist, 15442——Witness entirely agrees with Mr. Rumsey in the alterations necessary in the mode of appointing medical officers, in regulating their remuneration, and assigning their duties, 15444——Advantages of parochial appointments, 15444——Districts should be small and conveniently arranged, 15444–15449——Extent of districts should be regulated by size, population, &c., 15445–15451——A medical referee should be appointed, with certain powers, to act between medical men and the boards of guardians to agree upon districts, and scale of payment adapted to the peculiarities of the locality, 15461.

Witness approves of the plan proposed by Mr. Rumsey to appoint a medical commissioner; the affairs of the poor law, in its present state, cannot be well conducted without medical knowledge and medical control, 15467——The medical affairs of the country cannot be satisfactorily settled without the interposition of some medical authority, 15469——Qualifications which should be possessed by those medical men who were candidates for parochial appointments, 15472——Mode of remuneration should be on Mr. Kay's plan, partly by salary, partly per case, 15476——Rate per cent. on the amount paid for the poor, which should regulate the payment of medical practitioners, should vary from 4*l.* to 7*l.* per cent., 15478—— Witness considers that 10*s.* or 12*s.* per case would be the fair remuneration for parochial medical attendance, 15481, 15482——Cost of medicines per case in the Aylesbury infirmary, is 6*s.* 8*d.* per case, 15483——Price of medical attendance in the friendly society of which witness is most cognizant, is 9*s.* or 9*s.* 6*d.* per case, 15494——The arrangement between medical men and friendly societies is a contract plan, without any supervision, 15496.

The South Bucks Association is the only medical club which witness can tolerate, 15501——Poor law guardians should have nothing to do with medical clubs; their interference would deter any independent medical man from having any thing to do with them, 15504——The supply of medicines should be separated from the other charges; it is practised in many large towns, 15505——From 3*l.* to 5*l.* would keep a medicine-chest for 500 people of the ordinary remedies, 15508–15511——Adulterated drugs are continually sold, and even at houses that are called respectable, 15515——Fractures and dislocations should be separate items in payment, which would insure better attention, 15518——On the same principle that midwifery cases are so considered, 15521.

Witness has been offered drugs for paupers at a cheaper rate than the same articles for general practice, 15591——There is great diversity in drugs, and there is great adulteration, 15592.

Central National School. See *Westminster Central National School.*

Chadwick, Edwin. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Means taken to obtain returns ordered from the unions of Woburn, Ampthill and Bedford, 1.

[Second Examination.]—Puts in minutes of Poor Law Commissioners, a religious instruction in workhouses, and attendance on Divine worship, 17176——Application from ministers on the subject, 17177–17180——Disputes respecting the appointment of chaplains, 17181, 17182——Statement of the Commissioners' views read, 17184–17186.

Chamberlayne, Joseph. A young, able-bodied man, who has been seven or eight times in the Ampthill Union workhouse, although he could have obtained work either in the parish or on the railroad, *Overman* 11492–11499. 11503, 11504.

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Chance, Peter, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement of the earnings of himself and family in 1837; the earnings of the family are very small, the youngest child being only six months old; information derived from the man himself and his employer, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12600–12606——Comparative statement drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53——The statement of his income in the table is not correct, as he appears to have received relief in 1834 and 1835, *Turner* 8470–8473.

Chance, Samuel. He migrated with his family to the manufacturing districts, and was much better off until trade was suspended, and then he returned in misery, *Pearse* 10983–11008——Was assisted to migrate, partly by the Woburn board and partly by a subscription; was supplied with bedding and clothing, &c., *Pearse* 12809——The contract was made for him by Mr. Muggeridge with Olding & Co., Baccup, Lancashire; wages promised, *Pearse* 12864, 12865——Circumstances of his family before he migrated, *Pearse* 12869–12879.

Chance, William, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry into the various items of the above statement, by Mr. Pearse, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement of this man's earnings in 1837, as received from his employers; the earnings of his wife and family was obtained from the wife; he pays no rent, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12287–12300——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Chaplains. The chaplain frequently visits the workhouse, and is provided with a book for observations, which is invariably read at the meeting of the guardians, *Hall* 2522, 2523——The Commissioners have power to order the guardians to appoint a chaplain, *Hall* 2536——Salaries usually paid to chaplains; no difficulty has been found in procuring licenses from bishops, *Hall* 2539, 2540——Their duties in workhouses; they take no part in the education of the children, *Mott* 11813–11816——Minutes of the Poor Law Commissioners relative to the appointment of chaplains to workhouses, *Chadwick* 17176 Disputes respecting such appointments, *Chadwick* 17181, 17182.

See also *Religious Worship.*

Chapman, John. Committed to Bedford gaol for a month for gathering rotten wood in Lord Holland's park, *Turner* 8037–8044——Return of depositions and commitment of, 21st December 1807, for cutting wood, 27th *Rep. App. p.* 49——Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Chappel, Bernard. Observations of the Committee on the circumstances connected with medical relief to his wife, *Rep. p.* 15——A labourer of Marston (Ampthill Union); refusal of Dr. Bull to attend to an order of the overseer for medical relief to his sick wife, because he did not belong to a medical club, and of the relieving officer to visit his house, and see the condition of the family, *Turner* 7339–7370. 7379–7383——Dr. Bull did not attend to the order of the overseer; he has not at present given any reason for not doing so, *Marshall* 9500, 9501.

Charity. Assistance would be more readily given to the poor by private individuals, since allowance of the parish has ceased, *Gulson* 767——In Westoning, the poor being thrown upon their own resources, has induced those connected with them to extend their bounty considerably, *Pearse* 9931.

Chastity. Fewer females present themselves to be married in a state of pregnancy, since the new law; the female character is improved in chastity, *Hall* 2401, 2402.

Chelmsford Union. Expenditure for relief and maintenance of the poor during each quarter of the year ended 25th December 1837, 11th *Rep. App. p.* 19.

See also *Establishment Charges.*

Chelsea Workhouse. In December 1836, the porter had been admitted as schoolmaster; his salary was 8*s.* per week; he had 96 boys; the school-mistress was a lame pauper, *Hickson* 13241.

Cheltenham Workhouse. Letter from the Rev. C. Shann, on the religious instruction of Roman Catholics therein, *Horrabin* 17160.

Chew, Joseph, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry into the various items of the above statement. by Mr. Pearse, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement of the earnings of himself and wife in 1837; he is a man of weak mind, and gives but a poor account of himself;

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himself; the earnings of the wife was obtained from herself; they have no child, *Pearse* and *Marshall*, 12177–12189——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Chigwell. Amount received by witness as parish surgeon on an average of 12 years, *Rowe* 15602.

CHILDREN:

1. *Propriety of taking Children into the Workhouse, as Relief to the Parents.*
2. *Exercise of Pauper Children.*
3. *Their Discipline.*
4. *Situations found for them on leaving the Workhouse.*
5. *Neglect of their Education in Parish Poor-houses.*
6. *Children in the Workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk.*
7. *Employment of Children of Labourers.*

1. *Propriety of taking Children into the Workhouse, as Relief to the Parents.*

Observations of the Committee on the expediency of taking children into the workhouse as a mode of relief, *Rep. p.* 31——Evil of admitting children into the workhouse, by way of relieving parents married before the Poor Law Act; jealousy it would create, *Gulson* 2054. 2057, 2058——A man would seldom permit his children to be taken into the workhouse, *Gulson* 2055——The taking of children into the house is worse than the allowance system; it separates families, places good and bad workmen on the same footing, and encourages improvident marriages, *Overman* 11600–11605. 11643–11649——In Norfolk and Suffolk the system of taking into the workhouse children from large families was adopted to assist the labourers in the state of transition between the old and new law, *Kay* 4396——It is considered a great hardship that a respectable working man should be obliged to part with his children as the condition of receiving relief, *Bull* 6234——The guardians are gradually abandoning the system of taking children into the workhouse without their parents; the continued operation of the Poor Law Act will make it unnecessary, *Kay* 4818–4821.

2. *Exercise of Pauper Children.*

Necessity of sending children out of workhouses for the sake of exercise, *Rep. p.* 33——In many workhouses they are permitted to walk out; in others there is space enough for exercise without leaving the premises, *Gulson* 951–954——The health of the children has not suffered under the regulations of the workhouse, *Gulson* 985–987——Manner in which the play-hours are occupied; there is a constant change of occupation; the workhouse yard is not so crowded as some school play-grounds, *Hall* 2552–2555——There would be no objection to permit them to leave the walls, if a proper superintendence could be exercised, *Hall* 2556——Hours of play and relaxation, as well as gymnastic exercises, should be allowed. In some workhouses swings are erected; in certain cases the children walk out with the master or mistress, *Kay* 4507–4512——They should be permitted to walk out; this has not yet been systematically encouraged, but arrangements will be made when the workhouses are in full operation, *Kay* 4798–4808——In most of the workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk there is sufficient land for the employment and exercise of the children, *Kay* 4778–4779.

3. *Their Discipline.*

In very populous unions it would be advisable to separate the children from the workhouse establishment, *Gulson* 961–963——In Norfolk and Suffolk, children leave the union workhouse, with the greatest reluctance, frequently with tears in their eyes; they very seldom run away, *Kay* 4780–4782——The system of discipline and punishment is mild; corporal punishment is avoided as much as possible; nature of punishments in use, *Kay* 4783, 4784——The discipline is milder in every respect than in parish schools, *Kay* 4793——Necessity of changing the dresses of children on their entering the workhouse; they are generally in rags, and covered with dirt, and clean clothes must be provided, to secure the health of the establishment, *Kay* 4806, 4807——The truancy of children in the workhouse separated from their parents is not greater than that of children at school in other classes, *Kay* 4808–4817.

4. *Situations found for them on leaving the Workhouse.*

The guardians take pains to find situations for the children in the workhouse; no difficulty has been found in disposing of them, and the number is not likely to increase, *Hall* 2545–2548——Great care must be taken, that in providing for children educated in the workhouse, undue advantages are not given them over the children of independent labourers, *Hall* 2549–2551——No difficulty expected in finding situations; they are readily received out of well-regulated workhouses as domestic servants, *Power* 3279——Ages at which boys and girls brought up in workhouses could find employment in domestic service or farming occupations, *Kay* 4400——They will not be able to maintain themselves

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CHILDREN—4. *Situations found for them on leaving the Workhouse*—continued.

so soon as the children of independent labourers, unless a system of industrial training be adopted, *Kay* 4401——The experience of an improved system of education in workhouses, shows that children may be satisfactorily provided for on leaving the workhouse; the feeling of master and servant is much better than existed under the apprenticeship system, *Kay* 4468–4476.

5. *Neglect of their Education in Parish Poor-houses.*

Norfolk: Ignorance, demoralization and vicious habits of the children of the old parish poor-houses, *Kay* 4403, 4404 ——In the old workhouses children were much neglected in their moral and religious instruction, *Mott* 11781, 11782.

6. *Children in the Workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk.*

The class of children who remain longest in the workhouse are bastards, orphans or children deserted by their parents, *Kay* 4398–4399——Number, distinguishing boys and girls, bastards, orphans, &c. maintained and educated in the workhouses in the week ending 9th December 1837, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 32—— Table of the periods during which children have resided in workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk, in answer to a circular issued 3d January 1838, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 33——Return of the number of children admitted; also number discharged, apprenticed, placed in service, or who died in each year during seven years ending 25th March 1837, in Samford Hundred, Tattingstone House (Suffolk), 14th *Rep. App. p.* 33.

7. *Employment of Children of Labourers.*

Children are trained to habits of industry at an early age, now that the allowance system does not discourage their employment, *Kay* 4776.

Bedfordshire: It was commonly observed, that boys were never taken out with their parents; they are now constantly seen hedging and ditching with their fathers, *Adey* 5525.

Norfolk and *Suffolk:* In giving relief to the parents, the guardians generally insist upon the children being employed, or sent to school, *Kay* 4497.

See also *Apprenticeship. County Schools. Education. Employment. Schoolmasters, &c.*

Children's Friend Society's Schools. Deserted children and juvenile offenders are trained in order to be apprenticed in the colonies; the system of instruction should be applied to pauper children, *Kay* 4413–4414.

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diminution exhibited by the criminal return; it is the general complaint of the farmers, that petty crimes have increased, which are not brought before the quarter sessions, *Turner* 7846–7860——The number of criminal offenders decreased 24 per cent. in 1837, *Adey* 5712, 5713——Crime generally has decreased 27 per cent., *Musgrave* 14025.

Leicester: There have been more prosecutions for petty thefts since the Poor Law Act, *Rawson* 16475, 16476. 16482, 16483——Whether the establishment of a new police has increased the number of detections, *Rawson* 16734–16749. 16771–16776.

Norfolk and Suffolk: Returns from the county gaols and bridewells in Norfolk and Suffolk of felonies and misdemeanors in each year from 1830 to 1833, *App. p.* 41.

See also *Sheep-stealing* (*Bedfordshire.*) *Wood-stealing.*

Cripplegate Workhouse. Schoolmaster 81 years of age; a cripple, and rather fond of drink; he received 1*s.* per week; the schoolmistress was also a pauper, *Hickson* 13241.

Crouch, Mr., *of Clophill.* Extract of letter from him to witness relative to the amount paid by him for wages in 1834–1837, *Overman* 11374.

Cubebs. This medicine often undergoes a process of adulteration by drug-grinders, *Thomson* 15542.

Culcath Workhouse (*Lancashire.*) A perfect separation of the sexes exists, but no distinct classification for children, *Power* 2879.

Cultivation. There is great room for improvements even in the best cultivated parts of the country, *Overman* 11625–11629.

D.

Dale (*alias Martindale*), *John, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry by Mr. Pearse into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 58, 59——This man is in possession of a cottage right, keeps cows and pigs, and his income cannot be correctly ascertained; he is horsekeeper to his father, who is a farmer, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12642, 12643——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 53.

Deacon, Henry, of Lidlington. His earnings, circumstances and character, *Overman* 14643–14647——Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep., App. p.* 24.

Deacon, Susan. Question put relative to her; motion, that the witness (Mr. Pearse) do answer the question; amendment proposed, and agreed to, upon division, *Ev.* 39th *Rep. p.* 54——A widow, of Flitwick (Ampthill Union), with five children; her allowance before the union; its subsequent reductions, and discontinuance; earnings of herself and family; their destitution, *Turner* 7543–7605——Number of midwifery cases attended by her during twelve months, and number for which she was paid; amount received by her, *Turner* 8208–8213——Earnings and employment of herself and family; they were liberally relieved during the small-pox, and are well off, *Marshall* 9658–9669.

Deaths. See *Mortality in Workhouses.*

Deferred Annuities. Calculations proving their superiority over other modes of assurance for providing an independent provision in old age (Mr. *Cadogan Williams'* statement), 39th *Rep., App. p.* 60.

Denton, Joseph, of Shitlington. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep., App. p.* 25.

Depwade Union. Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse December 1837, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, *ib. p.* 33——Table of the rate of wages, and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, *ib. p.* 37.

Derby Self-supporting Charitable and Parochial Dispensary. Analysis of expenditure, from November 1831 to November 1836, 17th *Rep. App. p.* 30; 47th *Rep. App. p.* 22.

Derbyshire Mines. In consequence of their failure, a large portion of the population were thrown out of employment; these migrated voluntarily to the manufacturing districts, *Kay* 5000, 5001.

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

Dewsbury Union:

1. *Extent, Population, &c.*
2. *Expenses of the old and new Systems compared.*

1. *Extent, Population, &c.*

Remarks of the Committee on the evidence of Mr. Ellison and Mr. Ingham, *Rep. p.* 13——Is formed for registration purposes, but the administration of relief has not begun (21st March), *Ellison* 5192-5195——Its population and extent, *Ellison* 5207-5209; *Ingham* 14250, 14251——Proceedings of the guardians on a resolution proposed by witness; the majority are of opinion that the union will be unmanageable, on account of its size, *Ellison* 5219-5232——There are 11 townships, all of them, except two, having workhouses, *Ingham* 14241, 14242——Three workhouses will be required, *Ingham* 14258.

2. *Expenses of the old and new Systems compared.*

The Poor Law has been well administered, both in the manufacturing and rural districts; the expense of maintaining the poor has never been a subject of complaint, *Ellison* 5379-5388——The majority of the people object to the introduction of the new Poor Law, *Ingham* 14298-14300——It is expected that the amount paid in salaries to officers will increase the expenditure; number that will be required, and their salaries; charge for medical officers, *Ellison* 5297-5330, 5339-5354——Salaries of persons connected with the establishment, *Ingham* 14244-14249——Proposed salaries of masters and matrons, *Ingham* 14260——Two relieving officers and four assistant overseers would do the duty of the establishment, *Ingham* 14248. 14252-14256——Statements respecting the expenses of the establishment under the old system, *Ingham* 14237-14240. 14244——Expenses of the establishment, as estimated by Mr. Ellison, *Ingham* 14244-14248. 14258——Probable expenses of the future establishment altogether, *Ingham* 14264-14266——Whether there should be a chaplain appointed to the workhouse, *Ingham* 14274-14277.

See also *Unions.*

Diagnosis. Time and sagacity required for the useful and successful diagnosis of disease; a case in point, *Hall* 15998.

Dickins, William Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—A paper-hanger at Hoxton, 4619-4621——Applied to the parish of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, to receive a daughter afflicted with idiocy, which they refused, 4622-4627——(Mr. *Chadwick.*) The parish is not under the Poor Law Commissioners, 4628, 4629.

Dietary in Workhouses:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Lancashire and West Riding of York.*
3. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

1. *Generally.*

Observations of the Committee upon the dietaries of workhouses, *Rep. p.* 32——In no instance has a dietary been established insufficient for health, *Mott* 12021-12023——The Commissioners have listened to any suggestions of the guardians, *Mott* 12024, 12025——The diet of children is at the discretion of the guardians; any representation of the medical man would be attended to, *Gulson* 958-960——No complaints have been made of improper diet; whatever alterations have been suggested by medical men, have been made, *Hall* 2524-2527——Whenever the medical man has suggested alterations for aged or sick persons, they have been adopted; the diet is always sufficient for persons in health; its limits, *Power* 3183-3193——Diet-tables are laid before the guardians, who suggest alterations to make them conformable to the general mode of living in their part of the country; the Commissioners have never objected to them, *Power* 3177-3182——Persons in the workhouse should not be supported better than the independent labourer subsisting by his own industry, *Johnson* 4067.

2. *Lancashire and West Riding of York.*

The dietaries were taken from establishments that had long been in operation, and were tested by long experience, *Power* 3194-3197——Very little altered in the unions of Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, *Power* 3199-3207——There is no necessity for lowering either the amount or quality of diet; it has been left to the guardians in each union, *Power* 3201.

3. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

The dietaries recommended by the Commissioners have been adopted by the guardians, with modifications suited to the custom and habits of the country, *Kay* 4600-4603——They are such as to keep the paupers in a good state of health, *Kay* 4604-4615——The dietaries were either selected by the guardians from those contained in the circular of the Poor Law Commissioners, or were modifications suggested by the guardians, *Kay* 4756, 4757.

Reports, 1837–8—*continued.*

Diseases. See *Acute Diseases. Casualties. Dislocation. Small Pox.*

Dispensaries. Medicines are probably supplied by dispensaries to the poor at a cheaper rate than they could be bought by persons practising in the country, *Farr* 15803——Grounds on which the average cost of medicines at dispensaries may be estimated at 2*s.* 1½*d.* per case, *Farr* 15804.

See also *Bigsby*, Dr. *Canterbury. Coventry. Derby. Oxenden*, Mr. *Provisional Hospitals.*

District Schools. See *County Schools.*

Districts. Advantages that would result from rendering the districts for local administration of all descriptions co-extensive, *Gulson* 1431–1434.

See also *Magisterial Divisions. Medical Districts.*

Ditching. See *Hedging and Ditching.*

Division of Counties. There is great difficulty in dividing the counties under the Act of last Session, *Gulson* 1426.

Docking Union. Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse, December 1837, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, *ib. p.* 33——Number of various classes of paupers maintained in the workhouse in the week ending 2d January 1838, *ib. p.* 34——Table of the rate of wages, and classified result of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, *ib. p.* 38——Tables of mortality in the workhouse at different periods, *ib. p.* 42–45——Witness believes strangers have been introduced into the union under the Poor Law Act as medical practitioners, *Rumsey* 14824.

Dorchester Gaol and House of Correction. Number of prisoners in gaol; cases of sickness each year; average number on the sick list. Number of deaths; amounts of surgeon's salary; druggist's bill, &c. 46th *Rep. App. p.* 145.

Dover Union. Extent of union; greatest distance of patients from medical aid; number of parishes; amount of population, *Rumsey* 14763.

Doyle, Rev. Thomas. Letter on the religious instruction of Roman Catholic paupers in some of the London workhouses, *Horrabin* 17160.

Draining (Ampthill Union.) Prices of task-work for draining a score of poles in 1834 and 1837, *Turner* 7894–7897——Statement of Mr. Read, a farmer, of the reduced task-work prices for draining, by the score of 20 poles, *Turner* 8245——There has been more draining since the new Poor Law, *Overman* 11336.

Drug Trade. Description of the drug trade; forms in which drugs appear in the home market, *Thomson* 15534–15537.

Druggists. Some eminent druggists grind their own drugs, and do not employ druggrinders, *Thomson* 15551.

Drugs. Witness has been offered drugs for paupers at a cheaper rate than the same articles for general practice, *Ceely* 15591——There is a great diversity in drugs, and there is much adulteration, *Ceely* 15592——Adulterated drugs are continually sold, and even at houses called respectable, *Ceely* 15515——Amount of witness's bill with his druggists for supplying the poor of the parish of St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark, *Evans* 15762, 15763——Efficiency of medical arrangements in workhouses might be increased, provided the drugs for the treatment of cases in the workhouse were supplied by the board of guardians, *Kay* 16056——Arrangements as to drugs should be left entirely to the Board of Commissioners, *Kay* 16057–16062——The army and navy are now supplied by contract, regulated by public boards, *Kay* 16063.

See also *Medicine Chests.*

Dry-grinding. Unhealthy nature of this employment at Sheffield; neglect of the workmen to take precautions; average duration of their lives; high rate of wages, *Gulson* 1503–1505.

Dulwich. Circumstances under which witness received the appointment of district surgeon; his present position, *Webster* 15133–15161——Witness does not think the poor well attended to at Dulwich at present, but attaches no fault to the medical gentleman appointed, *Webster* 15190.

See also *Camberwell.*

Durham County. Return of all inquests held upon the bodies of illegitimate children, and the verdicts given since 1st January 1830; also, cases where dead bodies of infants have been brought under the notice of the coroner, but no inquest held thereon, 20th *Rep. App. p.* 22.

E.

Ealing. School established there by Lady Noel Byron for teaching industrial occupations, *Kay* 4405.

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East Hampstead Union. Number of poor who received in-door medical attendance, and of those who received out-door relief, *Farr* 15700——Extent of the union; greatest distance of patients from medical aid; number of parishes; amount of population, *Rumsey* 14763.

East Suffolk Agricultural Association. See *Shaw, Robert Newton.*

Eastry Union Workhouse. A journeyman shoemaker was appointed schoolmaster in 1837, on a salary of 25*l.* per annum; the school-mistress was a pauper; her predecessor had been in the house of correction, *Hickson* 13241.

Eaton or *Heaton, Edward.* See *Heaton* or *Eaton, Edward.*

Eaton, John, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items composing the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement as to his earnings in 1837; he works on the railroad; lives with his father, who does not pay any rent himself, *Pearse* 12480-12484——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Eccles, Mr. *Bannister.* His communication with respect to the amount of steam-power in Blackburn, *Kay* 4640.

Eclin Hill (*Elham Union*) *Workhouse.* An old army serjeant and his wife officiated as schoolmaster and mistress, on a joint salary of 30*l.* per annum; they assisted also in the house, and he acted as porter, *Hickson* 13241.

Edinburgh Sessional School. The system of training adopted by Mr. Wood is worthy of great attention; he practises corporal punishment, *Kay* 4786-4789.

Edmonton Union. Number of ex-officio guardians on that board, *Mott* 12044, 12045.

EDUCATION:

1. *In Workhouses generally.*
2. *In Leeds Workhouse.*
3. *In the London Workhouses.*
4. *In the Workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk.*
5. *Propriety of a System of industrial Training.*
6. *Education of the Working Classes.*

1. *In Workhouses generally.*

Remarks of the Committee on the evidence concerning the education of pauper children, *Rep. p.* 20——Objections to the education of children in the workhouses; difficulty of preventing their association with adult paupers; insufficient number for proper classification, *Kay* 4408——Difficulty of securing the permanence of any system of education introduced into workhouses; the visiting committee have their attention distracted by other duties, *Kay* 4421, 4422——Where there are good parochial schools, children might be sent from the workhouse, if the guardians had sufficient control over the management, *Kay* 4446, 4447. 4490-4495.

Was exceedingly bad in the old workhouses; commissioners should have the power of establishing central houses for the education of the children from several unions, *Gulson* 971-975——There is now no uniform system of instruction; necessity of introducing one, *Gulson* 976-982——There should be an institution for providing schoolmasters and mistresses, to which the guardians should be obliged to go; the remuneration offered is too small for competent persons, *Gulson* 983-985——Is still defective in most unions; good schoolmasters and schoolmistresses are now appointed; the Commissioners have insisted that all children be taught to read and write, *Gulson* 938, 939——They should also be taught some common trades and occupations, *Gulson* 940-942——Difficulty of providing instruction of this kind when there are few children; propriety of forming establishments for united unions, *Gulson* 943-950——General view of the education provided for children in the workhouse, *Hall* 2528-2530.

The education provided in the union workhouse is decidedly better than any that was to be found in parish workhouses, *Hall* 2565-2568——The girls are taught all sorts of occupations, and they are applied for as servants having a good character, *Hall* 2571-2573——The workhouse schools, as managed at present, are not adapted for the religious education and moral and industrial training of the children, *Kay* 4402——Difficulty of finding proper teachers; measures taken for procuring them, *Kay* 4405——Great attention is paid to the character of laundress where girls are taught household work; no pauper should come in contact with the children whilst under instruction, *Kay* 4435.

2. *In*

Education—continued.

2. *In Leeds Workhouse.*

A regular master is appointed for the instruction of the children; the girls are taught to sew and knit, *Johnson* 4078–4082——The system of bringing them up in the workhouse does not make them turn out well, *Johnson* 4089, 4090.

3. *In the London Workhouses.*

The system of workhouse training and education in London is as bad as possible; general outline of it, *Hickson* 13185–13187——The neglect of elementary education in workhouses is owing to the hostility it meets with from many boards of guardians, *Hickson* 13188, 13189——The practice of employing paupers to superintend the moral and industrial training of workhouse children is productive of the worst results, *Hickson* 13190–13209.

4. *In the Workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk.*

Great deficiencies were found in the arrangements made by the boards of guardians, *Kay* 4390——In nearly all the unions the children are taught reading, writing and arithmetic, and a certain amount of general knowledge, *Kay* 4505, 4506.

5. *Propriety of a System of industrial Training.*

It will be absolutely necessary to teach children trades, or they will not find situations, *Gulson* 964-966——Necessity of caution in teaching mechanical trades, lest the independent labourer should be injured, *Gulson* 989–996——The education provided must not be such as to induce independent labourers to keep their children in the workhouse, *Gulson* 997——Necessity of adopting a system of industrial training for pauper children, so as to give them the same kind of knowledge and skill as are generally acquired by the children of independent labourers, *Kay* 4401——Education is regarded by the Poor Law Commissioners as the means of avoiding the ultimate dependence of the children upon the rate-payers; great attention must be paid to industrial training, *Kay* 4406——No system of industrial training will give pauper children an advantage over the children of independent labourers; the latter would have better opportunities of learning, and of finding situations, *Kay* 4448, 4449——Industrial training would provide efficient female servants, and improve the domestic economy of the working classes, *Kay* 4452–4455——Should embrace reading, writing and accounts, moral and religious instruction, and training to useful occupations, *Hickson* 13194–13206——It is not intended, nor would it be practicable, to teach trades to pauper children; they are merely to be trained to habits of general industry and usefulness, *Hickson* 13228——The girls should be taught household matters and needlework, *Hickson* 13206–13208.

6. *Education of the Working Classes.*

In agricultural districts it is difficult to bring the farmers to see the necessity of providing education for pauper children, *Gulson* 938–986——Facilities should be offered for the education of the children of independent labourers on receiving payment; separate establishments preferable to workhouses for this purpose, *Gulson* 1003–1011——There would be no objection to permit the children of independent labourers to frequent county schools; the nature of the instruction would not be such as to induce yeomen to avail themselves of it, *Kay* 4439–4442——The neglect of education amongst the working classes is no reason for neglecting the instruction of pauper children; the establishment of county schools would improve the general state of education, and provide teachers, *Kay* 4437, 4438. 4450, 4451. 4501.

Objections to the education of the working classes; proposal to teach them the Bible in a foreign language; the Boards of Guardians have generally attended to suggestions for the improvement of education, *Kay* 4502–4504——There are not schools for the children of independent labourers in all agricultural parishes, and those that exist are conducted on imperfect principles; poverty does not prevent labourers from availing themselves of them, *Kay* 4762–4771——The poor of agricultural districts are not so well informed as those of manufacturing towns, their minds being contracted by the isolated lives they lead, *Hickson* 13238, 13239——Statement of a case showing the importance of carrying intellectual instruction a little further, especially for the agricultural peasantry, *Hickson* 13240.

Intellectual instruction should be carried so far as to encourage the spirit of enterprise, *Hickson* 13208——A little geography would be useful, but in many, even of the National and British Schools, a map is forbidden, *Hickson* 13208–13240——It is proposed to offer the same gratuitous instruction to the children of the labourer as to pauper children; the former might be day-scholars, *Hickson* 13216–13218. 13226——An improved system of education would be ultimately the most economical; it would produce a spirit of self-reliance at variance with pauperism, *Hickson* 13210, 13211——The effect of such a system on the next generation would be great; education being appreciated by the parents, would be given to the children, *Hickson* 13224.

See also *Children. County Schools. Religious Worship. Schoolmasters, &c.*

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Edwards, James, of Flitwick. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep., App. p.* 25.

Election of Guardians. See *Guardians.*

Election of Medical Officers. See *Medical Officers.*

Elective Franchise. The demands for an extension of the franchise cannot be resisted if the present poor-law system be continued; the poor are not protected by those who enjoy the franchise, *Bull* 6255——Objections to a clause in the Poor Law Act respecting voting in elections without having paid rates for six months, *Ingham* 14324, 14325.

Elliotson, John, M. D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Physician to the University College Hospital, 15850——And, lecturer on the practice of medicine, 15851——And, as physician in St. Thomas's Hospital, had very considerable experience in the treatment of sick poor, 15853——Has seen Mr. Rumsey's evidence, and considers that his opinions as to size of districts, remuneration of medical men, mode of appointment, and the appointment of a medical commissioner, are likely, if carried into effect, to be beneficial, 15856, 15857——Districts ought not to exceed twelve square miles, 15858——An act of justice to the poor that the medical districts should be as small as possible, 15859——Some kind of professional appeal would be satisfactory to the medical profession, 15861——Medical payments per case ought not to be less than 6*s.* or 7*s.*, 15863, 15864——Most injurious and improper in every respect that the office of surgeon to the poor should be let by tender, 15866——Of importance that the medical officer should have resided in a district, and be respected, 15867——No medical man could properly undertake the treatment of a population of more than 12,000, 15872——Witness's observations are principally from hearsay, from conversation with medical gentlemen, 15875——Disapproves entirely of the system of engaging medical men to attend on parishes by tender, 15882——Impossible for a medical man to do his duty when he has an inefficient remuneration; it must be injurious to the poor, 15885.

Ellison, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Gomersal, in the Dewsbury Union, 5190-5195——The select vestry system has worked well in Gomersal, 5196, 5197——Present poor-rate in the pound compared with the rate 20 years ago, 5198-5201——The rates have been reduced 500 per cent. by the judicious management of the select vestry, 5202-5204——The Dewsbury Union has not yet come into operation; its population and extent, 5205-5209——The unions formed by Mr. Power in the manufacturing districts are too large; the duties imposed upon the guardians will be very great, 5210-5212——These will be reduced, in some degree, by the relieving officer, but in times of distress the board would not be able to attend to all the applications, 5213-5218——Proceedings of the Dewsbury guardians on a resolution proposed by witness; the majority are of opinion that the union will be unmanageable, on account of its size, 5219-5232.

The introduction of the law in the neighbourhood has been very unpopular, 5233, 5234——Evidence respecting a public meeting for the repeal of the Poor Law Act; number and class of persons who attended, 5235-5279——The universal opinion of the clergy, gentry and rate-payers of the west riding of Yorkshire is, that the management of the poor cannot be improved by the new law, 5280-5293——Wherever the Select Vestry Act has been introduced into the manufacturing districts, the same feeling exists, 5294-5296——It is expected that the amount paid in salaries to officers will increase the expenditure; number that will be required, 5297-5308——Charge for medical officers; arrangements hitherto adopted in the Gomersal township for medical relief, 5309-5330——The average population of the Dewsbury, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Barnsley Unions is 100,000; the population has greatly increased, particularly in Bradford, since 1831, 5331-5338.

Expenses of the staff in the townships composing the Dewsbury Union, and estimated expense under the poor-law union, 5339-5354——At Gomersal there is more workhouse accommodation than is required; paupers are kept at home at less expense, 5355——If the Select Vestry Act were made imperative on the manufacturing districts, there would be no necessity for the new Poor Law Act, 5356, 5357——The paupers have not often complained to magistrates of their treatment, 5358-5360——Expenditure for the relief of the poor in Gomersal at different periods, 5361-5378——The poor law has been administered in Batley, and some other townships, as well as at Gomersal, 5379, 5380——They have not all adopted the Select Vestry Act, 5381, 5382.

The expense of maintaining the poor has never been a subject of complaint, 5383, 5384——The management in the rural districts is also good; the wages are high, 5385-5388——Earnings of persons engaged in manufactures of different kinds at Gomersal, 5389-5396——When paupers are sick, money is given them to procure medical attendance; those in the workhouse send for whatever doctor they please, who is paid by the vestry, 5397-5412——In the Bradford Union the rates will be increased; more relief is given to some of the paupers, and there is a greater establishment, 5419-5424.

Complaints have been made of the relieving officer remaining a very short time at places in which he was to pay the poor, 5425-5432——Manner in which the select vestry

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

Ellison, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—*continued.*

vestry at Gomersal investigate the cases of the poor, 5433-5434——The assistant overseer is also master of the workhouse; his salary; he contracts to supply the paupers with food, 5435-5443——The aged and the cripples only are in the workhouse, 5444——Nineteen out of twenty of the rate-payers are opposed to the new law, 5445-5450——Bad management in Liversedge; the assistant overseer absconded with money; the rate-payers approve of the new Poor Law, 5451-5457——There are no contests for select vestrymen; those who attend to their duties, are re-elected, 5458-5463——The select vestry must be better acquainted with the wants and feelings of the poor than the guardians of a large union, 5464-5467——The system of contracting with the master of the workhouse to feed the poor is bad, if done on a large scale, 5468.

Emergency. Persons in want of the necessaries of life, must be relieved without being offered the workhouse, on applying to any parish officer or magistrate, or any officer under the orders of the Poor Law Commissioners, *Gulson* 1142-1145.

See also *Out-door Relief.*

Emigration. The disposition to emigrate has diminished in Norfolk and Suffolk since the introduction of the new Poor Law; the employment of the labourers has become more constant, *Kay* 4650-4657——The accounts received from those families who have emigrated were such as to induce others to follow them, *Kay* 4658-4661.

EMPLOYMENT:

I. *Effect of the Poor Law Act generally upon Employment.*

II. *Increase of Employment.*

1. Generally.
2. Ampthill Union.
3. Aylesbury.
4. Bedfordshire.
5. Norfolk and Suffolk.

I. *Effect of the Poor Law Act generally upon Employment.*

Observations of the Committee on the effect of refusal of out-door relief to the able-bodied in increasing employment, *Rep. p.* 29——Effects of the workhouse system in inducing men to find employment, *Gulson* 337, 338——Effect of the new law in increasing the employment of different members of labourers' families, *Gulson* 357-360——The increased amount and constancy of employment is equivalent to a rise in wages, *Gulson* 361——The effect of the law is to give additional employment of a more constant character to a man and his whole family, *Hall* 2689——The improved character of the labourers and the reduction of rates induce the farmers to expend more capital in the cultivation of land, *Power* 3414——The workhouse system affords the best security for permanent employment at sufficient wages; opinions of guardians in Norfolk and Suffolk, *Kay* 4662-4664——One of the most useful tendencies of the new law is the diffusion of the population to profitable fields of employment, *Kay* 4712——The new Poor Law will ensure steadier employment and more constant wages, both in manufacturing and agricultural districts, *Hall* 16987-16996. 17023-17031. 17044-17061.

II. *Increase of Employment.*

1. *Generally.*

Labour has been more abundant since the passing of the Poor Law Act, and the means of the poor have been gradually increasing up to the present time, *Gulson* 757-759——Some labourers are no doubt out of work in all the unions, but the number is not considerable, *Hall* 2649-2654——Able-bodied single men, of good character, in any part of the country, may have sufficient employment to maintain them through the year, *Power* 3403——Is more constant, and the children are more employed, *Power* 3415.

2. *Ampthill Union.*

There is no difference in the number of children employed; employment has rather increased; some have found work on the railroad, *Turner* 5831-5852——A great many applications have been made lately (2d May) for relief by able-bodied men out of employment, *Turner* 8183, 8184——Mr. Gulson's statement, that labourers of good character do not come into the workhouses, contradicted as regards the Ampthill Union, *Turner* 8300-8303——Guardians sometimes offer work to labourers to save them from entering the workhouse, *Turner* 8572.

It is a general observation amongst the farmers that employment has increased in Westoning, *Pearse* 9909-9912——The labourer stands on a better footing with his employer, both with respect to quantity and constancy of employment, *Pearse* 9938, 9939——Employment increased directly the workhouse was completed, which operated

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EMPLOYMENT—II. *Increase of Employment*—2. *Ampthill Union*—continued.

as a test both upon labourers and farmers, making the one willing to accept, and the other to give, work, *Marshall* 10105-10115——The poor are generally employed in more constant labour, and the relationship in which they stand to their employers is better, *Whitehurst* 11128-11132——Many more labourers are now employed by farmers in the cultivation of the soil, because they are willing to work, and the farmers are enabled to employ them by a diminution of rates, *Overman* 11324-11332. 11335——The saving of rates has been applied to the payment of labour, *Overman* 11370, 11371——Letters from several farmers in the union on the increase of employment, *Overman* 11372-11378. 11398-11409.

No labourers were out of employment last winter; in former years they were usually turned off during severe weather, *Overman* 11532-11536——The natural result of the poor law will be, that very few men will be out of employment; it makes the labourer anxious to seek it, and enables the farmer to give it, *Overman* 11505-11531——Every labourer will be employed at adequate wages; increase of wages and diminution of rates formerly spent unproductively at Westoning, *Overman* 11537-11554——Work always comes round; it is only whilst waiting for the season, that relief is applied for, *Marshall* 13445.

3. *Aylesbury.*

Reasons why saved capital not generally applied to the soil, *Ceely* 15331——All the labourers might be profitably employed were it not for the parsimoniousness of those who possess funds, *Ceely* 15335-15340.

4. *Bedfordshire.*

Employment has increased in Bedfordshire since the withdrawal of out-door relief, *Adey* 5503-5505——The amount of task-work has increased; more children are employed, and the employment of labourers is more constant, *Adey* 5524-5530. 5696-5702——Before the Poor Law Act there were constant congregations of unemployed labourers, *Adey* 5648-5657——Thirty or forty able-bodied men were out of employment in the parish of Ampthill for many weeks during the winter; many were driven to stealing; they did not apply for relief, as they knew the workhouse would be offered, *Turner* 5836-5856——In the parish of Ampthill, two-thirds of the labouring people have not constant work, *Turner* 5934-5939——At particular seasons of the year, work is always plentiful; instance stated in proof of this, *Marshall* 13446-13449——Examination as to the increase of employment and wages in Bedfordshire, *Overman* 14335-14416. 14427-14490——There were very few labourers out of employ last winter, *Overman* 14125——Farmers being less burthened with rates, have more capital to spend on their farms, *Overman* 14176, 14177.

5. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

There is now permanent employment for labourers, even at those periods in which there was formerly the least, *Kay* 4657——Widows, and the mothers of bastard children, have better opportunities of getting employment than they formerly had, *Kay* 4746-4750.

See also *Ampthill Parish. Ampthill Union. Children*, 7. *Wages. Westoning. Workhouse Test, &c.*

Epping Union. Witness believes strangers have been introduced into this union as medical practitioners, *Rumsey* 14824——Offer of medical practitioners in the Epping Union to take the business on the average charge of the last three years, rejected by the guardians, *Rumsey* 14826——Meeting of the medical men of the Epping Union to consider the future terms of remuneration for medical relief to paupers, on the introduction of the new Poor Law, *Rowe* 15605——Proposition of the medical men, met with a refusal by the guardians; other terms offered; refused by the medical men, with one exception, *Rowe* 15605——Reasons why witness preferred acting even at an unremunerating price, rather than permit the introduction into the neighbourhood of new practitioners, *Rowe* 15643——A medical officer was dismissed in consequence of proceedings on a coroner's inquest, *Rowe* 15667——Case of improper treatment of a man who had his shoulder dislocated during the absence of the medical officer who had been appointed by the board of guardians, *Rowe* 15677.

Equitable Assurance Company. When established; number of policies in 1768; number forfeited by non-payment of premiums; (Statement of Mr. *Cadogan Williams*) 39th *Rep. App. p.* 60.

Esser. Table of expenditure for the relief and maintenance of the poor in eight unions in the county of Essex during each quarter of the year ended 25 December 1837, 11th *Rep. App. p.* 19.

See also *Wages*, 4.

Establishment Charges. Charge per head on the population of several unions; they are usually in proportion to the amount of pauperism, not of population, *Power* 3063-3093——Total

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Establishment Charges—continued.

——Total amount in eight unions, viz. Chelmsford, Colchester, Halsted, Maldon, Asett, Rochford, Saffron Walden and Tendring; population; rate per head, *Power* 3310-3315 ——Will bear a greater proportion to other expenses in the north than in the south; expense of making, assessing and collecting the rates, *Power* 3359-3361 ——Establishment charges in eight unions, compared with the same charges in 125 unions, as stated in a Return to the House of Lords; causes of different proportions, *Power* 3604-3612.

Table of 15 unions; date of their formation; establishment charges, 10th *Rep. App. p.* 30——Return of sums expended therein in unions in which workhouses have been established two years and upwards, 23d *Rep. App. p.* 26.

Eton Union. Witness believes strangers have been introduced into this union as medical practitioners, *Rumsey* 14824——This union, which formerly had four medical attendants, with assistants, was put under one surgeon, without any assistant, *Rumsey* 14762——Reductions which have taken place in the number of medical officers in this union, *Rumsey* 14783.

Euphorbium. This medicine often undergoes adulteration to a considerable extent, by druggrinders, *Thomson* 15542.

Evans, Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surgeon of the parish of St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark; held the situation seven years, 15719-15724——Formerly received 100*l.* per annum, salary, 15726——Amount of remuneration for each, 1*s.* ½*d.*, 15730——Witness considers himself very inadequately remunerated, 15739——Witness considers the weekly returns very useful, 15760——Amount of witness's druggists' bills for medicine for paupers, 15762, 15763.

Eve, Mr., *of Silsoe.* Examination respecting wages and employment given by him, *Overman* 14452-14455——Extract of letter containing the amount paid by him as wages on his farm, 1834-1837, *Overman* 11374.

Eyres, Henry, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Income of himself and family in 1837; value of garden-ground; information derived from himself, his wife and his employer, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12630-12635——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

Exercise of Pauper Children. See *Children* 3.

Exeter Savings Bank. Amount therein belonging to agricultural labourers, *Gulson* 352. 414-416.

Ex-officio Guardians. See *Guardians.*

Expenditure. Will be reduced in the manufacturing districts, by the introduction of the new law, *Power* 3362-3365——Is not the only criterion of good management; but a reduction of rates affords a strong presumption of improved management, when the rates in neighbouring places are unequal, *Power* 3737-3741. 3837.

Return of number of paupers relieved, with the amount of money expended for the relief and maintenance of the poor in several unions, during the quarters ended Christmas 1836 and 1837 respectively, 16th *Rep. App. p.* 31.

F.

Factories. Before the Poor Law Act, children were sent to the factories; a few have been sent since, under the protection of the migration agents, but this practice will not be continued, *Kay* 4480-4487.

Farm Servants (*Bedfordshire.*) Were formerly kept in the houses of farmers; that system does not prevail to any great extent at present, *Overman* 11443-11447——The system was discontinued, because they could not be kept in order when they could get money from the parish, *Overman* 11443-11445——The alteration of the law of settlement is an inducement to keep them, *Overman* 11454-11456. 11654——The disadvantage of keeping them, is generally greater than the advantages; the system would check early marriages, and bring up young men in good moral habits, *Overman* 11457-11471.

Farmer, John. Relief was given him illegally by the overseer of Steppingley, as he lived out of the union, and the relief was in money, instead of in kind, *Marshall* 9217.

Farmers. Many of the small farmers contributing to the poor-rates, endure more hardship and privations than paupers, *Gulson* 1892-1907.

Reports, 1837–8—*continued.*

Farr, John, of Westoning. Tabular Statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various sums comprised in the above account, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement of the earnings, &c. of himself and wife in 1837; the information was derived from his employer; he is a cripple in the arm, which disables him from the ordinary work of a day-labourer, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12442–12450——Comparative statement, *App. p.* 52.

Farr, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides in Grafton-street, 15683——Is a member of the council of the British Medical Association, 15684——A Poor Law committee was formed in that association, for conducting an inquiry into the operation of the medical department of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 15685——Nature of witness's practice; has had considerable experience with regard to the treatment of the sick poor, both in London and the country, 15688——Author of an article on Vital Statistics, in Mr. M'Culloch's work, intituled, "A Statistical Account of the British Empire," 15689, 15690——Explanations of returns to orders of the House relating to parishes, population, area of medical districts, qualifications of medical men, 15692–15696——Explanation of returns as to number of sick; average number of cases per annum, 15697–15700——Number relieved in and out of the workhouse at Cookham, 15700——In East Hampstead Union, 15700——In the Torringdon Union, 15700——Evidence as to size of districts, many of which appear too large, 15703——The Leighton Buzzard Union is 55 square miles; the Newbury Union is 72 square miles, 15703——The Wallingford Union is 26 miles, 15704.

Workingham Union is 25 miles, 15704——The Oakhampton Union is 54 square miles, 15704——North Leach, Upper and Lower, 109 square miles, 15704——Other unions in which the distance from the medical man's residence is considerable, 15704–15706——List of places that have a very large population under the care of the medical officer, 15707——Evils attending large medical districts, 15718——Present payments for parochial medical attendance; examination as to which are generally per case, or by salary, or on the pauper schedule; salaries vary considerably, 15762——Names of unions in which the payment varies considerably, 15765——Evils of the per-case system, 15762–15782——One of the important features in giving orders is, that it renders the relieving officer open to charges of causing death, and such charges have been brought, 15775——Classes of persons to be attended, must be determined by the rate-payers, through the guardians, 15784——Medical relief should be found for all that class of the population which has not a surplus over necessary subsistence, to provide medical assistance for themselves, 15788——Payment to medical men should be by fixed salary, which should cover the expense of remedies and journies, in order that the practitioners may not be tempted to send the patient worthless drugs, 15793——Not possible to obtain the services of respectable medical men in the unions, except by connecting the duties they have to perform to the poor, with the duties of private practice, 15796.

Analysis of the cost of medical attendance, viz. cost of medicines, charge for medical advice, and expense of journies, 15797–15798——Extract from a pamphlet by Dr. Bigsby, stating the expense of medicine per case, in various dispensaries; opinion of witness that the cost of medicine for out-door patients, and at the hospital, is the same as the cost of medicines at the dispensaries, 15800——Medicines are probably supplied by dispensaries, to the poor, at a cheaper rate than they could be bought by persons practising in the country, 15803——Cost of medicines at the following county hospitals; viz. Salop, Chester, Bedford, York, Colchester, Winchester, Salisbury, Aylesbury and Lincoln, 15803——On all these grounds, witness considers that the average cost of medicines in dispensaries, is 2*s.* 1½ *d.* per case, 15804——Evidence and opinions of Mr. Oxenden and Mr. Rumsey, on the comparative expense of supplying medicine in dispensaries, hospitals, in-door and out-door patients, 15807——Cost of medicine for prisoners in Irish gaols, as extracted from the Reports of Inspectors of Prisons, 15810–15811.

Evidence as to attendance of country surgeons on the army, and recruiting parties, and amount of remuneration allowed, 15812——Low terms on which medical men attend friendly societies; terms which will not allow them to supply the members with efficient drugs, 15814——They must use the cheapest drugs; for instance, arsenic for quinine, in cases of ague, 15815——Allowance made for cases among seamen in sick quarters, is 6*s.* per case, 15818——Calculation, showing that about 6*s.* 6*d.* per case would be a fair remuneration to medical men in unions, 15818——Present amount of remuneration in various unions, which amounts to about 3*s.* 3½ *d.* per case on the average, 15818——In fact, witness proposes to double the present amount of remuneration, 15820——Present average size of medical districts is, 21¼ square miles, and the average population 5,188, 15821——Evidence as to the area of unions for medical attendance, 15825——Resident medical men should elect a medical man to communicate with guardians, and to divide the unions into medical districts, 15826——Such medical man to be paid by the guardians, 15829–15833——Power which witness would give medical guardian as to size of districts, and the remuneration of medical men, 15839——Reasons why surgeons

of

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Farr, William, (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

of gaols have always been better paid than parochial surgeons, 15841——The poor can neither obtain proper medicine, nor proper attendance, under the present system, 15846.

Farringdon Union. Is wholly agricultural; was very pauperized; number to whom the workhouse was offered; present prosperity of the union, *Gulson* 671–679——It was the first union in which the law was brought into operation, *Gulson* 677——Number of patients who received in-door medical relief; also, number who received out-door medical attendance, *Farr* 15700.

Farringdon Without. Party spirit is so strong in that ward, that the list system has degenerated into a system of self-election, each of its 16 representatives being supported by numbers of his friends, *Hickson* 13146–13150. 13158, 13159.

Faversham Union. Witness believes, that under powers of Poor Law Act, the guardians have introduced strangers as medical practitioners, *Rumsey* 14824——Extent of union; greatest distance of patients from medical aid; number of parishes; amount of population, *Rumsey* 14763——Reductions which have taken place in the number of medical officers in this union, *Rumsey* 14783.

Felkin's Remarks. A work lately published, contains accurate information of the wages and condition of the poor in Nottingham, *Gulson* 76–78.

Female Servants. Great complaints are made, particularly in the manufacturing districts, of the want of good female servants; a system of industrial instruction would provide them, *Kay* 4452–4455.

Fires. In Norfolk and Suffolk incendiary fires were frequent before the introduction of the new Poor Law; the fires that have since occurred had no reference to the Poor Law; there is less discontent, *Kay* 4927–4932.

Fisher, William, of Maulden. Nature of his employment; name of his employer; his family, earnings, &c. *Overman* 14521–14550——Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837, earnings of his family, &c. 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Flint, Catherine. A widow living at Luton, but belonging to the Ampthill Union; refused admission to the board by the relieving officer; her age, circumstances, &c., *Turner* 6948–6967——Her circumstances; she was living at Luton, and was directed to apply to the relieving officer of that union; she applied at Ampthill while the Board was sitting, *Marshall* 9447–9451.

Flitton, Bedfordshire. The parish was much pauperized when Earl de Grey introduced the allotment system, by which the rates have been lowered one-half——Size of the allotments, and rents paid; they are rather higher than when land is let to farmers, in order to cover the expense of collection; whether tithe and rate free, *Turner* 8495–8499——Striking change produced by the allotment system on Earl de Grey's estate, *Pearse* 9963, 9964——Population, and number of paupers; when visited by the relieving officer; the poor are paid in the church, *Marshall* 9168–9171.

Flitwick. Population and number of paupers; when visited by the relieving officer; the poor are paid in the open street, *Marshall* 9183–9186——Extract from letter of Mr. Negus, a farmer, on the rate of wages in that parish in 1834 and 1837, *Overman* 11409——Return from the vicar of the number of marriages solemnized by agricultural labourers, from 1st January 1832 to 31st December 1837, *Overman* 11651——Comparative statement of the condition of six labourers (three in constant work, and three not in constont work) in 1834 and 1837, 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Ford, John, of Cranfield. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 24.

Forsay, Elizabeth. A widow whose allowance was discontinued by the Ampthill Board of Guardians; she was obliged to sell her furniture in order to subsist, *Turner* 7091–7131——She has lately applied (May) to the Board, and has been allowed a trifle; she lives with her sister, who has a room rent free, *Marshall* 9464. 9469–9471.

Frames (Leicester). Average rent of frames; how regulated; it is reduced in proportion to the work given out, *Rawson* 16418–16420——The full rent is generally taken for frames, although not in full work, *Swain* 16899.

Frame-work Knitters:—

Leicester: They work in separate houses; the frames belong to their employers, who let them out at a rent, and give out the material to be manufactured; weekly earnings of families, *Hall* 2133–2140——Amount of allowance to them in aid of wages before the new Poor Law; the reduction of their income is rather apparent than real; they have more constant employment, and their children have work found for them more readily, *Hall* 2333–2347——The practice of giving relief in aid of their wages, defended; the Commissioners have not prohibited it, *Rawson* 16573–16613.

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Frame-work Knitters—continued.

Leicester—continued.

Wages of stocking and sock-makers; reduction thereof; they have been more generally employed of late, *Rawson* 16614–16648——Stocking-makers do not possess frames of their own so much as formerly; disadvantage in having them when employment is scarce, *Rawson* 16777–16786——Earnings of frame-work knitters, their wives and children, *Swain* 16839–16865——Sock and stocking-making are distinct branches of trade, *Swain* 16876–16878——Some stocking-makers go out harvest making, *Swain* 16896–16898——How far their wages have been reduced, *Hall* 17005–17027——Any reduction of wages cannot be attributed to the Poor Law, *Hall* 17107–17110.

Nottingham: Average wages of 452 frame-work knitters in Nottingham during the spring and summer of 1837, *Gulson* 543.

Francis, Mr., of Houghton Conquest. Extract of a letter from, stating the increase in the amount paid for labour; decrease in the amount of poor-rates; character and condition of the poor now and formerly, *Overman* 11398.

Friendly Societies. Increase in the deposits made by Friendly Societies in the Ampthill Savings Bank, in the years 1835, 1836 and 1837, *Overman* 11424–11437——Difference between Medical Clubs and Friendly Societies; the latter are always picked lives, *Rumsey* 15067——Low terms on which medical men attend Friendly Societies; terms, which will not allow them to supply the patients with efficient drugs, *Farr* 15814, 15815——Cost of medicine in those Medical Friendly Societies with which witness is best acquainted is 9*s.* to 9*s.* 6*d.* per case, *Ceely* 15494——Arrangement between medical men and Friendly Societies is a contract plan, without any supervision, *Ceely* 15496.

See also *Medical Benefit Societies. Medical Clubs.*

Friendly Medical Relief Society (*South Bucks.*) Evidence as to the formation of the South Bucks Friendly Medical Relief Society, *Rumsey* 15069.

Frost (*Norfolk and Suffolk.*) In some unions the applications for relief were not more numerous than usual; the workhouses were by no means full; work was found for the labourers by their employers, *Kay* 5046–5054.

Fuel. Dearness of fuel in Bedfordshire; price of coals; difficulty in procuring wood; punishment for gathering sticks in plantations, *Turner* 5965–5988, 6032–6037.

See also *Wood Stealing.*

Funerals. See *Burial of Paupers.*

FURNITURE:

I. *Whether the Furniture of the Poor is sold on entering the Workhouse.*

1. Generally.
2. Ampthill Union.
3. Leicester.
4. Norfolk and Suffolk.
5. Nottingham and Derby Union.

II. *Condition of the Furniture of the Poor in the Ampthill Union.*

I. *Whether the Furniture of the Poor is sold on entering the Workhouse.*

1. Generally.

Summary of evidence concerning the sale of furniture by the poor on entering the workhouse, *Rep. p.* 30——In the parish books there are frequently inventories of the furniture of the poor taken on giving them relief, although they were permitted to use them, *Gulson* 282–285, 292–296——Instructional letter of the Poor Law Commissioners, empowering the guardians to receive men into the workhouse, and give relief in kind to their families, while they seek employment for them, in order to avoid selling their furniture, *Gulson* 505——The common law, not the Poor Law Act, requires the sale of furniture as a condition of receiving relief, *Gulson* 507–517, 16383.

The old Poor Law was very severe; it made the sale of furniture the condition of relief, *Gulson* 16395–16397——The strict workhouse principle requires the goods to be sold, and all the family to enter the house, *Marshall* 13490–13502——The Poor Law Amendment Act does not require the sale of a poor man's goods, unless when he enters the house permanently, *Marshall* 13419–13445——The property of paupers legally belonged to the parish, under the old law as well as now, *Rawson* 16540–16551——The furniture of a man entering the house would never be broken up by any act of the guardians; it may sometimes be seized by the landlord for rent, *Power* 3272——Case at Bourne, Lincolnshire, in which relief was refused a widow, in consequence of the superior value of her furniture, *Gulson* 503.

2. Ampthill

Reports, 1837–8—*continued.*

FURNITURE—I. *Whether the Furniture of the Poor is sold on entering the Workhouse*—cont^d.

2. Ampthill Union.

The board have never ordered furniture to be sold, but the relieving officer has said that persons ought not to have relief while they have any furniture, *Turner* 7087–7090——When persons are driven to enter the workhouse, they are generally in arrears with their rent, and the landlord is obliged, in protection to himself, to seize for his rent, *Turner* 8569——It is not the opinion of the guardians that the poor should sell their necessary furniture bofore they receive relief, *Marshall* 9457–9463——Relief has been refused to persons having saleable property, but never to those having nothing but furniture, *Marshall* 13503–13506——On entering the workhouse, people leave their furniture in the charge of friends; no resolution in practice of the board requires them to sell it, *Marshall* 9829–9831.

3. Leicester.

Witness has known no instance in which a man has been obliged to sell his furniture on entering the workhouse; it is usually locked up in his cottage, *Hall* 2675, 2676——A man is always compelled by his necessities to sell his furniture before he enters the workhouse, *Rawson* 16407–16410. 16417——His cottage is never retained for him until he leaves the workhouse; the landlord will sometimes not permit him to enter it again without a guarantee from the parish, *Rawson* 16411——The guardians do not require furniture to be sold as a condition of relief, but applications are rarely made until the furniture is sold, *Rawson* 16504–16517.

4. Norfolk and Suffolk.

There have been no instances in which the able-bodied have sold their furniture; their residence in the workhouse is usually short, *Kay* 4915–4919.

5. Nottingham and Derby Unions.

The poor do not sell their furniture and break up their establishments on going into the workhouse, *Gulson* 80–82——The guardians have never required this to be done, as a proof of destitution; the law is more leniently administered in this respect by the guardians than by overseers, *Gulson* 80–100——Individuals may have sold their furniture rather than enter the house, but not at the instance of the relieving officor or the board, *Gulson* 101–113——The furniture is usually kept by the landlord, as in times of pressure the rooms would not be let, and the owners of the furniture are expected to return, or it is intrusted to others, *Gulson* 130–141——A man will not go into the workhouse as long as he has any goods to sell, *Nixon* 16293, 16294——The board of guardians does not order a poor man's goods to be sold if he applies for relief, but offers him the workhouse, *Nixon* 16195–16296——Remarks concerning the mode of disposing of the furniture of paupers in the Nottingham and Derby Unions, *Rawson* 16518–16524.

II. *Condition of the Furniture of the Poor in the Ampthill Union.*

Scantiness of furniture and bedding belonging to the poor, *Turner* 7591–7612——Destitute condition of the cottages; the furniture of John Cooper, at Maulden, John Robinson, of Lidlington, and John Sissick, described in detail, *Crabtree* 8630–8638. 8645–8656, 8664–8678, 8681–8797——The furniture and bedding of labourers of good character is very different from that described by Mr. Turner; it is as good as in most rural districts; better than in Sussex, *Marshall* 9277–9282——The bedding of the poor in Westoning is not such as described by Mr. Turner; they principally lie on stump bedsteads and straw mattresses, *Pearse* 9915–9917, 9928——The condition of the cottages, furniture and bedding of the poor has not deteriorated, *Whitehurst* 11129–11131.

See also *Beds* (*Westoning.*) *Sissick, John, of Marston.*

G.

Gamboge. Is an article said to be very frequently manufactured in this country, *Thomson* 15542.

Game Certificates. Case of an overseer in Lincolnshire purchasing a game certificate for a pauper, to enable him to support himself by poaching, *Gulson* 1119.

Gaol Surgeons. Reasons why surgeons of gaols have always been better paid than parochial surgeons, *Farr* 15841.

Gaols (*Ireland*). Cost of medicine for prisoners in Irish gaols, as extracted from reports of Irish inspectors of prisons, *Farr* 15810, 15811.

Gates or *Yates, Thomas, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, earnings of his family, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837,

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

Gates or *Yates, Thomas, of Westoning*—continued.

39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement of the earnings of himself and family in 1837; information derived from the man himself as to his earnings; the scale applied as to the earnings of his children, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12582-12587——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

Gazelee or *Guisley, Thomas and William.* See *Guisley* or *Gazelee, Thomas and William.*

Gazellee or *Guiseley, Jesse.* See *Guiseley* or *Gazellee, Jesse.*

Gazellee or *Guisley, William.* See *Guisley* or *Gazellee, William.*

Gell, Francis Harding. One of the coroners of the county of Sussex; his return of inquests on the bodies of illegitimate children, from 1 January 1830 to 25 March 1838, 20th *Rep. App. p.* 21.

George, St., Hanover-square. Dietary of the workhouse, 27th *Rep. App. p.* 48.

George's, St., Hospital, London. Table, showing the number of in-patients and out-patients, 1833-1835; cost of drugs, leeches, bottles, brandy, vinegar, surgical instruments, &c., at this hospital, 44th *Rep. App. p.* 143.

George's, St., in-the-East, Workhouse. The schoolmaster had been a pauper all his life, but appeared somewhat more intelligent than most of the same class; his salary was 25*l.* per annum, for teaching 122 boys; the schoolmistress was quite incompetent, *Hickson* 13231.

See also *Religious Worship.*

George, St., the Martyr, Southwark. Salary for medical attendance on the poor, *Evans* 15726.

See also *Drugs.*

George, St., the Martyr Workhouse. In 1836 the schoolmaster was a pauper; the children were dirty, squalid and miserable, *Hickson* 13241.

Giddens, William. A labourer at Clophill, Bedfordshire, with a family consisting of eight persons, had only a few days work between the harvest and the end of the year, *Turner* 6020-6022.

Gilbert Act. The clause obliging guardians to provide work for a man near his own dwelling, is most objectionable, *Nixon* 16330-16335.

Gilbert Unions:

1. *Their Constitution, Defects and Abuses.*
2. *Powers of the Poor Law Commissioners: propriety of dissolving the Unions.*

1. *Their Constitution, Defects and Abuses.*

Fundamental difference in the management and practice of Gilbert Unions, compared with that of Poor Law Unions; disadvantages of the former, *Hall* 2207-2217——The guardians are paid for their attendance; amount of their salaries; to some it was an object of importance, *Hall* 2218-2221——Their machinery was defective; the guardians were not better than the overseers in other parishes, *Hall* 2222-2224——The guardians used to dine once a month at the workhouse, partly at the expense of the parish, and partly out of funds arising from fines, *Hall* 2226——Practice of the guardians in the west riding of York to have monthly entertainments at the workhouse; funds by which they were provided, *Power* 3691-3698——In some unions guardians have derived profit from the supply of clothes to the workhouses, *Hall* 2311-2315.

They were formed capriciously; the parishes were not always contiguous; circumstances which regulated their formation; mode in which parishes were severed, *Hall* 2227-2229——Insulated position of several parishes; instance of the Market Bosworth and Bedworth Unions, *Hall* 2316-2318——Wherever the poor have been well managed, the Gilbert Act has been evaded, *Hall* 2235——The workhouse is used as a test, to a certain extent; the application of it to the able-bodied is in contravention of the Gilbert Act, *Power* 3669, 3670. 3704——Abuses in the management; payment of the rents of able-bodied poor; employment of roundsmen, *Power* 3632-3654. 3719-3723——The guardians audit their workhouse accounts themselves at monthly meetings; there is no audit of the separate parochial expenses; many items have been passed, either illegal, or of doubtful legality, *Power* 3659-3664.

In Nottinghamshire less pauperism was found in the Gilbert Unions than in the other parishes, *Gulson* 1605, 1606——Remarks upon question 1606, respecting the difference of pauperism in and out of the Gilbert Unions, *Nixon* 16184.

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Gilbert Unions—continued.

2. *Powers of the Poor Law Commissioners: propriety of dissolving the Unions.*

The Commissioners should have power to dissolve them, in order to make the law uniform, *Gulson* 1997. 2000–2005——Have occasioned great inconvenience; should be dissolved by Act of Parliament, in order to introduce a uniform system, *Hall* 2230–2233——Geographical position of certain Gilbert Unions in the west riding of York; plan of proposed unions, the formation of which, was interfered with, *Power* 3613–3631——The practice of administering relief is various in the separate townships; the adoption of one uniform management by a board of guardians would be a great improvement, *Power* 3624–3626. 3632–3634——The townships incorporated, are upon a level, as regards expenditure, with those that are not under the Gilbert Act, nor the Poor Law Commissioners, *Power* 3689, 3690——The expenses would be diminished by the introduction of the Poor Law Act; the establishment charges would be borne by a larger number of townships, *Power* 3666–3667——The guardians showed great reluctance to have the unions dissolved; the management had been much improved during the last few years, *Power* 3717, 3718. 3724–3736.

Gilbert Union Workhouses. Extraordinary management in some of the Gilbert workhouses; at Appleby, all the able-bodied men were kept in fetters, *Hall* 2241–2245. 2252——In three out of four workhouses there is no classification, and the establishments are not, in any case, sufficient for the population, *Power* 3658——The children are not properly classified, and sufficient provision is not made for their education, *Powsr* 3665.

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Glasgow Normal School. Corporal punishment is entirely excluded from the system of discipline, *Kay* 4787.

Glasshouse Yard. See *Aldersgate Parish.*

Gleanings. Average gleanings of a family, consisting of a woman and three children, the youngest being eight years old, in harvest time, *Pearse* 9925.

Gloucester County. Summary of unions formed by Robert Weale, Esq., assistant Poor Law Commissioner, 47th *Rep. App. pp.* 34–36.

Gomersal Township. Beneficial operation of the select vestry system; present poor-rate in the pound compared with the rates 20 years ago; reduction of 500 per cent. effected, *Ellison* 5196–5204——Expenditure for the relief of the poor at different periods; the expense has never been a subject of complaint, *Ellison* 5361–5378. 5383, 5384————Nineteen out of twenty of the rate-payers are opposed to the new law, *Ellison* 5445–5450——There are no contests for select vestrymen; those who attend to their duties are re-elected by general agreement among the parishioners; others retire, or are not re-elected, *Ellison* 5458–5463.

Arrangements for medical relief; money is given to out-paupers, to enable them to procure attendance; those in the workhouse send for what medical man they please, and his bill is paid, *Ellison* 5326–5330. 5397–5412——The assistant overseer is also master of the workhouse; his salary; he contracts to supply the paupers with food; the aged and cripples only are in the workhouse, *Ellison* 4435–5444. 5468——There is more workhouse accommodation than is required; paupers are kept at home at less expense, *Ellison* 5355——Earnings of persons engaged in manufactures of different kinds, *Ellison* 5389–5396.

Goodman, Barnard, of Milbrook. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Gosport Workhouse. The dietary established there long before the new law was less in quantity than any under the Poor Law Commissioners, *Mott* 12025.

Gravel-digging. Statement of Edward Underwood, a labourer of Milbrook, of the reduction of the task-work price of digging gravel by the yard, *Turner* 8216–8224.

Gravel Pits. Great immorality and mischief produced by the practice of employing paupers in the gravel pits; their irregular habits must have been prejudicial to the interests of their families, *Turner* 8119–8128; *Musgrave* 13805–13840.

Gravenhurst (Ampthill Union.) Population and average number of paupers of Upper and Lower Gravenhurst; inconvenience of having to pay the paupers in the street; no room has been provided for the purpose, *Marshall* 9065–9071.

Green, Mr. See *Grindon,* Mr., and Mr. *Green.*

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Green, Mr., *of Milbrook*. Extract of letter from him, with statement of wages paid to able-bodied men, 1834–1837, *Overman* 11409.

Grindon, Mr., and Mr. *Green*. Motion that Mr. Grindon, late porter of Ampthill workhouse, and Mr. Green, solicitor, be summoned before this Committee, superseded by amendment, 1st *Rep.* iv.

GUARDIANS:

1. *Proposed Extension of the Powers of the Poor Law Commissioners in dividing and consolidating Parishes, and altering the Number of Guardians.*
2. *Expediency of Plurality of Votes and Proxies.*
3. *Control that the Guardians should possess over the Rates.*
4. *Whether greater Discretion should be vested in them.*
5. *Attendance of Guardians.*
6. *Character and Interests of Guardians.*
7. *Limitation of the Number of ex-officio Guardians.*
8. *Effect of Non-election of Guardians upon the Proceedings of the Board.*

1. *Proposed Extension of the Powers of the Poor Law Commissioners in dividing and consolidating Parishes, and altering the Number of Guardians.*

Observations of the Committee concerning the division of parishes into wards; the consolidation of small parishes, &c., *Rep. pp.* 19, 20. 37——Resolution, That power be given to the Commissioners to divide large parishes into wards for the election of guardians separately, *Rep. p.* 39——Recommendation that the Commissioners should have power to alter the number of guardians as population fluctuates, *Rep. p.* 37——The consent of two-thirds of the guardians must be obtained before an union can be altered; greater powers should be given to the Commissioners, *Gulson* 1366–1370.

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Inconvenience arising from the inability of the Commissioners to alter the number of guardians; case of the parish of Aldersgate, *Mott* 12033–12035.

2. *Expediency of Plurality of Votes and Proxies.*

The plurality of votes should be continued; a fair representation of the rate-payers is secured; where there have been contests, the occupiers have been successful, *Gulson* 2006–2019——The Parochial Assessment Act will give the occupiers still more influence, *Gulson* 2020——Guardians form a more popular representation than exists in any other branch of local or general administration, *Power* 3222–3224——The practice of plurality of votes and proxies in the election of guardians is very objectionable; a few individuals may entirely sway the other rate-payers, *Bull* 6629——The plurality of voting and proxies have given greater power to rich men, but the question has not excited much attention in agricultural districts, *Turner* 7218–7223.

3. *Control that the Guardians should possess over the Rates.*

They should have the whole power of raising and expending the poor-rates; the signing of the rate-book should be transferred to them from the magistrates, *Gulson* 1405–

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1419——The making of rates, and every duty now performed by others, should be left to the board of guardians, *Storie* 13330–13344——It is desirable that every thing relating to the parish should be under their control, *Shadbolt* 13276.

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Any additional discretion vested in the guardians would be generally prejudicial, *Gulson* 2033, 2034——There is no restraint upon their discretion in giving relief in particular cases, but the manner of giving it is prescribed in some cases by the rules of the Commissioners, *Power* 3225–3229——The rule refusing out-door relief does not oblige the guardians to refuse relief altogether, but only alters the form in which it is to be given, *Power* 3234–3237——Guardians could not safely be left to their own discretion; without control from a central authority, there would be no security for the permanence of good management, *Power* 3909–3914.

Great emergencies arise in the manufacturing districts where the guardians should have the discretion of applying the labour test, *Johnson* 4148–4153——Some boards are jealous of what may be done by their successors, and desire the Poor Law Commissioners to issue peremptory rules to restrain their discretion, *Kay* 4560–4562——There can be no security in the uniformity and permanence of a system without the control of the Commissioners, and many boards are desirous of being relieved of responsibility by peremptory rules, *Kay* 4566–4571.

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The majority are disinterested persons, as far as regards each individual case; they are generally liberal; only one or two are interested in depressing the amount of relief given, *Gulson* 1193–1196. 1200–1203——Security against their refusal of relief in the workhouse, with a view to depress wages, *Kay* 4684–4702——Are not likely to be so well acquainted with the circumstances of a case as the overseers of a parish; cases of hardship in the Ampthill Union, *Crabtree* 8681–8707.

7. *Limitation of the Number of ex-officio Guardians.*

Limitation of the number of *ex-officio* guardians in the London Unions proposed; number in the Edmonton Union, *Mott* 12044–12046.

8. *Effect of Non-election of Guardians upon the Proceedings of the Board.*

The opinion of the attorney and solicitor-general has been given, that a board of guardians may proceed with business, although some of the parishes have not elected guardians, *Power* 3964–3969.

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Guiacum. Extent to which this drug is often adulterated by drug-grinders, *Thomson* 15542.

Guiltcross Union. Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse, December 1837, 14th *Rep., App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, *ib. p.* 33——Number of various classes of paupers maintained in the workhouse in the week ending 2d January 1838, *ib. p.* 34——Table of the rate of wages, and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, *ib. p.* 38.

Guiseley or *Gazellee, Jesse, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as the same relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement of his employer as regards the amount of his earnings in 1837; he resides with his father, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12559–12563——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 53.

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Guisley or *Gazelee, Thomas, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his fnmily, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above account, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement of the earnings, &c. of himself and family in 1837 as obtained from his employer, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12493–12499——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

Guisley or *Gazellee, William, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45——Statement of the earnings of himself, his wife and family in 1837, as furnished by his employer; the scale applied as to the wife and children's earnings, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12554–12558——He is a permanent pauper, at 5*s.* per week, *Marshall* 12353——Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 46, 47——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. pp.* 52, 53.

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[Sixth Examination.]—No part of the law requires amendment in the administration of medical relief; rules of Commissioners, and their effect, 1676–1698——Medical tenders; the number of sick attended, diminished, and why, 1699–1723——There are no longer any suspended orders of removal, 1724–1729——Comparative advantages of paying fixed salaries, and by the case, 1730–1741. 1811, 1812——Medical relief before and since the Poor Law Act, 1745–1761. 1824, 1825——Advantage of medical clubs, 1762, 1763. 1908–1931——Extent of medical districts, 1769–1780. 1862–1871——Pauper lunatics and asylums, 1781–1807——Parochial contributions to county hospitals, 1808–1810. 1936–1938——Evidence as to medical contracts, 1813–1853——Character of medical men, how ascertained, 1878–1887——The lower class of rate-payers are frequently worse off than paupers, 1888–1907——Evidence as to mendicancy, 1946–1974——As to the effect of the vagrancy laws upon men seeking employment, 1975–1995——Suggestions for the amendment of the Poor Law, 1996–2043.

[Seventh Examination.]—Able-bodied women are relieved, with their children, out of the house, 2047, 2048——Necessity of enforcing the rule as regards able-bodied men with families born before the new law, 2049–2058.

[Eighth Examination.]—Examination respecting the Basford Union; explanations of former evidence, 16341–16378——Statement made by Mr. Bell, before the House of Lords,

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Gulson, Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Lords, respecting the Bourne Union, 16383——On the application of 14 or 16 able-bodied men for relief there, they were offered the house while the frost lasted, 16383——They were also assured by witness, that on their return home, they would find their furniture as they left it, 16383–16385——During the last twelve months above 2,000 people have passed through the Nottingham workhouse; about 1,200 of these are now in re-possession of their homes and goods, 16386, 16387——It is desirable that the board of guardians should subscribe to county hospitals, 16392–16394.

Gulson, Edward. Suggestions submitted by him to the consideration of the Committee, as points regarding which an alteration of the law is necessary for the better and more effectual administration under the Poor Law Act, 48th *Rep., App. p.* 68.

Gum Arabic. Extent to which gum arabic is adulterated by drug-grinders, *Thomson* 15542.

Gunning, Mr. See *Lincoln Union.*

Gurney, Joseph, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement as to the amount of his earnings in 1837, as furnished by himself and his employer; he was living at Tragrith till he married last Christmas, and then went to reside at Westoning, *Pearse* and *Marshall,* 12576–12581——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

Gurney, Richard, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement given by himself and his employer as to the amount of his earnings in 1837, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12564–12569——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

Gurney, William, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement of the amount of his earnings, as also of his wife, in 1837; information from the man and from his employer; the scale must have been applied to the wife's earnings, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12650–12655——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

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Hack, John, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45——This man is too weak in intellect to give any account of his income; he lives with his mother and sister, and is frequently unemployed when work is scarce, *Pearse* and *Marshall,* 12467, 12468, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

Hackneywick. School of the Children's Friend Society; provincial teachers have been sent to this industrial school to qualify them as workhouse schoolmasters, *Kay* 4405.

Hadleigh. Children were obtained without difficulty for a silk factory, who would not have entered it when the allowance system prevailed, *Kay* 4535.

Halifax Union. The number of relieving officers has been increased from three to four, *Power* 3327.

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Hall, Marshall, M. D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides in Manchester-square, 15967——Practises in London, 15968——Is lecturer on the practice of medicine, 5969——Was physician to St. Mary's Infirmary in Nottingham, and for a short time physician to the General Hospital, 15972——Offers by tender to undertake the medical treatment of the poor are derogatory to the medical profession, 15974——Before a man is appointed to a medical district, he should be two years in the profession; two years in actual practice, 15977——Witness considers that it is likely to be of great advantage to the poor that this medical officer should also attend the rich in the neighbourhood, 15979——Witness has read a paper by Dr. Yelloley, and the evidence of Mr. Rumsey, and, generally speaking, is of the same opinion as those gentlemen, 15984——Witness certainly considers that medical districts should be much reduced in size, 15986——A district of the diameter of four or five miles would be a proper sized district, 15988–15990——No satisfaction could result as to remuneration without reference to professional authority, 15991.

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Hall, Marshall, M. D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—*continued.*

Witness was always of opinion that a medical commissioner should be appointed, 15992-15994——Medical men who undertake the care of dense populations, would have a sufficient duty to perform with a population of 10,000 or 12,000, 15996——Time and sagacity required for the careful and successful diagnosis of disease; a case in point, 15998——Fevers and serious diseases require at least 20 minutes examination on a first inspection, 16001——Medical attendance in hospitals in England is shamefully deficient, 16010-16012—— Practice of appointing medical officers by tender, as a means of providing medical attendance on the poor, likely to be productive of benefit to no party, 16022——Any professional appointment should be to a practitioner who has been at least two years in the locality, and one in practice, 16023——Resorting to tender, and introducing strangers into the neighbourhood, highly improper, 16024.

The poor require more attendance than the rich, 16025——They are more liable to contagious diseases, 16027——Acute diseases could not be satisfactorily treated at a great distance from the residence of the medical attendant, 16030——Beneficial results would follow the reducing the size of districts, appointing medical officers on an improved plan, and establishing an efficient medical control over medical officers, and by Parliament fixing some scale of remuneration equivalent to the medical services afforded, 16033.

Hall, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been three years assistant Poor Law Commissioner, 2059, 2060——Has been employed in Berks, Oxfordshire and Leicestershire, 2061-2064——Unions formed in the latter, which are manufacturing, 2065-2069——Number of parishes, and population of Leicester; management of the poor in the different parishes before the union, 2070-2084——Relief was given in money in proportion to the wages of each applicant, 2085-2094——The workhouse is not yet completed, 2095-2098——An out-door labour-test has been applied; error of the guardians in giving too much pay, 2099-2118——The workhouse is the best test, and next is work so arranged as not to be alluring, 2119-2125——Some test is necessary to detect imposition; at Leicester many persons received relief from two benevolent societies at the same time, 2126-2130——The Poor Law Act is not less applicable to manufacturing than to rural districts, 2131, 2132——Frame-work knitting in Leicester described; earnings, &c., 2133-2140——Ruinous effects of the manufacture of stockings by the parish, 2141-2145——The independent workmen are aware that their wages were depressed by the system, 2146-2148——The guardians are now giving relief without labour; advantages of relief in kind, 2149-2157.

Hinckley Union, when formed; population; number of parishes, 2158-2165—— The administration of the poor was better than in other parishes in Leicestershire, but there was no system, 2166-2171——Relief to the able-bodied has since been restricted to the workhouse; workhouse accommodation, 2172-2176——Difficulties arising from paupers belonging to Hinckley residing at Leicester; how removed, 2177-2194——Superiority of the machinery under the new law, 2195-2202——Population and parishes of the Lutterworth Union, 2203-2206.

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[Second Examination.]—Reasons for dissolving Wallingford Gilbert Union, 2295-2298——State of the workhouse; want of classification; trades exercised therein, 2299-2305——Defective administration in Barrow-upon-Soar Union, 2306-2310——In Gilbert Unions guardians have derived profit from the supply of clothes to the workhouses, 2311-2315——Insulated position of parishes in Gilbert Unions, 2316-2318——Rates have been reduced by good management, which could not have been generally introduced without the Poor Law Act, 2319-2329——The sick poor had not the same security for attendance under the old law as they now have, 2330-2331——The aged and infirm are relieved as liberally, 2332——Amount of allowance to frame-work knitters before the Poor Law Act; the reduction of their income is rather apparent than real; more steady work, and the employment of their children adds to it, 2333-2347——The new system shortens the duration of manufacturing pressure, 2348-2353——Has produced a more kindly feeling between the work-people and their masters, 2354-2356——Has been rather favourable to the aged and infirm, 2357-2363.

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Reasons for believing that bastardy has decreased; encouragement afforded by the old law, 2364-2378. 2403, 2404——Appeals to quarter sessions have not been resorted to, 2379-2381——Average allowances to females with bastards under the old law, 2382-2400——The Poor Law Act has increased chastity, 2401, 2402——And diminished indiscreet marriages, 2405——Relief is given to the mother of a bastard child by taking both into the workhouse; she could not be detained, if she chose to leave her child in the workhouse, 2412-2424——She might be punished under the Vagrant Act if an order of affiliation had been made, 2425-2429——Orders made upon putative fathers before the passing of the Poor Law Act are not enforced; they were made for the indemnification of the parish, not the mother, 2430-2438——Orders have been made by guardians limiting relief to mothers to the workhouse, 2439-2442.

There has been a more proper application of wages since the new law; beer-shops have been less frequented, 2450, 2451——The good labourers express themselves satisfied with the new system, and their employers say that the work is done more readily, 2452-2456——There was little resistance to the introduction of the Act into Leicestershire, and that has entirely ceased, 2457-2463——The absence of popular agitators contributed to its suppression, 2464-2466——Earnings of the frame-work knitters of Leicester at stone-breaking a proof of their industry; whether the workhouse test should have been applied to them, 2467-2483——Complaints of the working classes against the Poor Law Act; regulations of the workhouse; the workhouse test, 2484-2486——None have been made respecting the aged and infirm, or funerals, 2487, 2488——Guardians complain that they have not discretionary power to grant out-door relief, 2489-2496.

Pernicious effect on manufactures of the system of aiding wages, 2497-2504——Rise of wages in rural parishes, either nominal or real, 2505, 2506——The separation of man and wife in the workhouse is complained of; sometimes also the want of separation between the peaceable and the ill-behaved, 2507-2511——Securities for the proper management of workhouses, 2512-2516——Admission of strangers, 2517-2519——The chaplain has a book for his remarks, 2520-2523——Whatever alteration of diet has been suggested by the medical man has been made, 2524-2527——Education of the children, 2528-2530——Certain unions in which chaplains are not yet appointed, 2531-2537. 2541, 2542——Salaries given to chaplains, 2538-2540.

The guardians take pains to find situations for the children, 2545-2548——Danger of giving them advantages over the children of independent labourers, 2549-2551——Manner in which their play-hours are occupied, 2552-2556——Religious instruction in the workhouse, 2557-2564——The new law is an improvement, both in religion and education, 2565-2568——The girls are applied for as servants, 2571-2573——Unions in which individual guardians have expressed a wish to give relief to the able-bodied in aid of wages, 2574-2593——The wish is unreasonable; examination as to the amount of wages sufficient to maintain a family, 2594-2626——There is no injustice in the workhouse test; the labourers themselves approve of it, 2627-2645.

Number of able-bodied receiving relief in the Hungerford Union before and since the Poor Law Act; employment has increased, 2646-2648——There are industrious labourers out of work; the workhouse would be offered them, 2644-2654——Whether they can save any thing to support themselves, 2655-2665——They have no reason to complain of the new law; circumstances which may reconcile them to it, 2666-2688——The general result is the increase of employment and earnings, 2689-2701——Some labourers understand this, and are becoming more reconciled, 2702-2704——Employers are more anxious to find work, 2705, 2706——A good labourer, with a family, is sure of being soon taken out of the workhouse, 2711-2713——Extent to which guardians inquire as to the earnings of labourers, 2714-2728——Advantages to all parties of paying wages instead of poor-rate, 2729-2733——There has not been great suffering. 2734-2739.

In the Bradfield and Cookham Unions out-door relief is refused to widows with young children, 2740-2754——The best mode of relieving them out of the house would be by receiving some of their children, 2755-2766——Wages are now equal to the former wages and head money, 2767-2779——The prohibitory rule, when once in force, has never been relaxed, 2782-2783——Extreme rigour of the local Poor Act for Oxford city; impossibility of acting upon it, 2785-2795——Auditors should be appointed for several unions, and not by the guardians, 2796-2804——The *ex-officio* guardians attend well; objections to an increase of their number, 2805-2810——The Commissioners should have power to re-cast unions, 2811-2816——The guardians in witness's district see the paupers, and do not receive the case through the relieving officer, 2817-2819——Suggested alterations in the election of guardians, 2820-2822.

[Third Examination.]—Produces papers, 3305-3309.

[Fourth Examination.]—Transactions between the Leicester and Hinckley Unions, relative to their non-resident poor, 16954-16956——Explanations of his evidence concerning Burbage, 16957-16969——The rate prohibiting out-door relief could be carried into effect in Leicester if the workhouse were built, 16970, 16971——Causes of the failure of

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the labour test in Leicester, 16972–16986——The Poor Law will ensure steadier employment and more constant wages, both in manufacturing and agricultural districts, 16987–16992. 17028–17031. 17044–17061——Manner in which this may be effected in Leicestershire, 16993–16996. 17005, 17006——Burthens imposed on land by the manufacturing population in Great Wigston and Sheepshead, 16997–17004——How far wages of frame-work knitters at Leicester have been reduced, 17005–17027——No relief should be given but in return for labour, 17028–17043. 17093–17100——To what extent persons would endure privation rather than enter the workhouse, 17044–17091——Such out-door labour test may be applied as would not impair the health of manufacturers, 17101–17106——Any reduction of wages in Leicester cannot be attributed to the Poor Law, 17107–17110.

Halsted Union. Population, expenditure and establishment charges, *Power* 3075——Expenditure for the relief and maintenance of the poor in each quarter of the year ended 25 December 1837, 11th *Rep. App. p.* 19.

See also *Establishment Charges.*

Hambledon Union. Extent of union, greatest distance of patients from medical aid; number of parishes; amount of population, *Rumsey* 14763——Witness believes strangers have been introduced into this union as medical practitioners, *Rumsey* 14824.

Hammersmith Workhouse. Letter from Rev. Mr. Bellisent, on the religious instruction of Roman Catholic children in that workhouse, *Horrabin* 17152.

Hampden, John. There is a parish book in Oxfordshire in his hand-writing; he served the office of overseer; the book was in a very bad state, *Gulson* 2036, 2037.

Handley, Messrs. Sums paid to Irish labourers by Messrs. Handley, bankers at Newark, as wages earned at the harvest in the wolds of Lincolnshire, *Gulson* 343.

HAND-LOOM WEAVERS:

1. *Bradford.*
2. *Lancashire and West Riding of York.*

1. *Bradford.*

Are a very numerous class of operatives at Bradford; are most moral and respectable; are prepared to give every information to the Commissioners appointed to inquire into their condition, *Bull* 6269, 6270.

2. *Lancashire and West Riding of York.*

The wages of hand-loom weavers are always low; it was usual to give them relief in money; their earnings, *Power* 2863–2869. 2867, 2868——To some a regular weekly allowance was given, to others, occasional relief, *Power* 2866——Able-bodied men and their families were employed in the workhouse in weaving for the parish; means taken to stimulate their industry, *Power* 2849–2852 ——This practice induced them to remain in the workhouse, and interfered with independent labour, *Power* 2853–2856——It greatly reduced the price of the staple manufacture, and lowered the wages, *Power* 2857–2862——Distress would be chiefly confined to those with large families of young children; it would be impossible to refuse them out-door relief, *Power* 2869–2872——Relief in kind should be substituted for money, and advice given them to resort to more profitable employment, *Power* 2873, 2874.

It would be difficult for the old weavers to change their occupation, but the younger ones might do so, and the children should not be brought up to hand-loom weaving, *Power* 2875——Out-door relief to the old hand-loom weavers cannot be discontinued, but those who can turn to other trades must not be relieved as before, *Power* 3302–3304. 3379-3384——The class is gradually diminishing; in a few years there will be none engaged in making the coarser descriptions of calico; they are a small class compared with the rest of the population, *Power* 3288. 3295–3298——They do not earn sufficient for their maintenance; machinery competes with them, and makes the employers unable to raise their wages, while the parish, by giving relief, prevents them from quitting their employment, *Power* 3791–3795.

The silk weavers are not distressed in a good state of trade; but the weavers of calico never earn great wages, *Power* 3923——Some classes cannot earn more than 4*s.*, 5*s.* or 6*s.* a-week; worsted weavers, when trade is good, earn very considerable wages, *Power* 3988–3992 ——In ordinary times, those between the ages of 20 and 40 would have no difficulty in finding employment in factories; there is a great want of labour, and they could readily learn to attend to power-looms, *Power* 4002–4012.

See also *Blackburn Union.*

Hare, George, of Shitlington. His wages during the year 1837, *Musgrave* 13742——Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

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Harradine, Mr., *of Hawnes.* Letter from him, stating the amount paid for labour, the condition of the poor, &c., now and in 1834, *Overman* 11374.

Harris, Thomas, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, in a tabular form, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement of his earnings, &c., in 1837; information received from the man himself, and from his employer, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12670–12672——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

Hartismere Union. Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse, December 1837, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, *ib. p.* 33——Number of various classes of paupers maintained in the workhouse in the week ending 2 January 1838, *ib. p.* 34——Table of the rate of wages and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, *ib. p.* 38.

Hartshead Moor Meeting. Meeting held there at Whitsuntide, to petition for a repeal of the Poor Law Act, how convened; numbers and respectability of the persons who attended; nature of the discussion, &c., *Bull* 6248–6261. 6264——The Lord Lieutenant of the west riding of Yorkshire declined to call the meeting; it was called in the name of the requisitionists, *Bull* 6516–6520——Violent expressions made use of by some of the persons who attended; plans of union workhouses exhibited by Mr. Thompson, and remarks made by him, *Bull* 6521-6544——Exciting character of language used at the meeting with reference to the Poor Law Act, *Power* 3240–3242.

Harvest (*Ampthill Union.*) Calculation of the average earnings of a labourer in the harvest month, *Pearse* 12740, 12741.

Hastings, Rape of. Return of all inquests held upon the bodies of illegitimate children from 1st Jan. 1830 to 23d March 1838, 20th *Rep., App. p.* 22.

Hawkins, Jane, of Lidlington. Her allowance has been increased by the board of guardians, *Marshall* 10212–10218.

Hawnes (*Ampthill Union.*) Its population; time occupied by the relieving officer in paying the poor; a room is hired for the purpose, *Marshall* 9047-9054——Average number of paupers, *Marshall* 9064——Extract from a letter of Mr. Harradine, a farmer, on the wages in that parish; increase of employment; general condition of the poor, &c., *Overman* 11374.

Head-money. A man with a large family is the most valuable labourer, and his employer would be anxious to maintain him without assistance from the parish, which is injurious to the labourer, *Power* 3762, 3763——It is impossible that a good and industrious labourer should continue to receive from his employer wages inadequate to his support, unless a third party supplies the deficiency, *Power* 3768–3770.

In Ampthill: Under the old system a labourer received 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* for every child above a certain number, *Musgrave* 13782.

See also *Allowance System. Out-door Relief.*

Heaton or *Eaton, Edward, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, earnings of his family, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the items comprised in the above statements, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Was employed on the roads during the whole of the year; earnings of himself and family in 1837, as given by himself; the scale applied to the children, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12619–12623. Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

Heaton, John, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition, with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45.——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Hedging and Ditching. Prices of task-work by the pole in the Ampthill Union in 1834 and 1837, *Turner* 7898——Wages paid for hedging since 1834 in Westoning, *Pearse* 9925.

Henniker, Rev. Sir *A. B. Chairman of Hartismere Union.* His answers to queries on migration and emigration, 15th *Rep. App. p.* 26.

Herbert, Mark, a labourer of Westoning (*Bedfordshire.*) Confined in gaol for poaching under peculiar circumstances, *Turner* 6121-6123——Circumstances attending the death of his wife in child-bed; neglect of the relieving officer in not attending to a note written by the overseer for medical attendance; the overseer ought to have sent an order to the surgeon, *Turner* 6124-6167——Explanation of circumstances connected with his application to the relieving officer for medical relief for his wife, *Marshall* 9201. 9391. 9318–9323——

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9323—— Further examination thereon, *Marshall* 10585-10678——Her destitution denied; she was amply relieved by the clergyman, and attended by a nurse, *Pearse* 9306-9308. 9314-9317; *Marshall* 9324, 9325——Extracts from a letter of Mr. Chapman, the medical officer, stating that she was properly attended by himself and his assistant, *Pearse* 9313.

Hereditary Pauperism. Manner in which the system of giving out-door relief in money and ill-regulated workhouses produced habits of pauperism, which descended from father to son, *Power* 3146. 3151, 3152.

Heron, Mr. *John S.* His communication with respect to the amount of steam power at Wigan, *Kay* 4637.

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[Third Examination.]—The dietaries have in every case been suggested by the guardians, 4756, 4757——The bastardy clauses should be repealed; the effect of the Poor Law Act on bastardy cannot yet be ascertained, 4758–4761——Poverty is not the main obstacle to the education of labourers' children, 4762–4771——The effect of the Poor Law is to improve industrial education, by giving employment to children, 4772–4776——Land attached to workhouses, 4777–4779——Corporal punishment is unnecessary for the correction of children, 4780–4789——The discipline of children in the workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk is milder than in parish schools, 4790–4797——They ought to be allowed to walk out, 4798–4800——And go to the parish church when it is practicable, 4801–4805——Necessity of changing the dress of children on entering the workhouse, 4806, 4807——The truancy of children in the workhouse separatad from their parents is not greater than that of children at school in other classes, 4808–4817——The system of taking children into the workhouse without their parents will be gradually abandoned, 4818–4821——Fewer able-bodied men will require relief, 4822.

Classes of children for whom the county schools would be established, 4823–4825——The discontinuance of out-door relief has been gradual, 4826–4828——Practice of giving medical relief to the families of able-bodied men, 4829–4831——The difficulties connected with religious instruction in county schools will be great in proportion to the number of dissenters, 4832–4834——Rate of wages in Norfolk and Suffolk; how far the interest of farmers to raise them, 4835–4865——Calculations of the extent to which they appear to have increased, 4866–4880, 4884–4887, 4891–4899——The comforts of men with large families are increased by receiving more task-work, 4881–4883——The single man is also better off, 4888–4890——A large body of the intelligent labourers are contented with the change in the law; reasons why it does not give them general satisfaction, 4900–4908——The pressure occasioned by the change of the law affected those of imperfect skill or bad character, 4909–4912——Their character and skill have improved, 4913.

Persons have not been obliged to sell their furniture on entering the workhouse; their residence there is seldom long, 4915–4919——Married couples are allowed to see each other in the workhouse on reasonable occasions, 4920–4926——The number of incendiary fires have decreased since the new Poor Law, and discontent is less prevalent, 4927–4932——Necessity of classification; decent females do not object to separation from the men,

4933–

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

Kay, James Phillips, M. D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—*continued.*

4933-4940——How far parents are separated from their children, 4941-4945——Class of farmers from whom witness has gained information concerning wages, 4946-4961——The price of task-work has not been lowered, and its amount has increased, 4962-4970——State of pauperism in the Woodbridge Union before and since the new law, 4971-4981——Difficulties in the formation of unions; the Commissioners should have power to alter them, 4982-4991——Importance of selecting proper Poor Law officers; vigilance necessary in superintending them, 4992-4999.

[Fourth Examination.]—Voluntary migration existed before a migration agent was appointed; value of his services, 5000-5021——Relieving officers should visit each parish two or three times a-week, and go to the houses of the poor, 5022-5045——Extent to which able-bodied men required relief during the frost, 5046-5054——There is little mendicancy in Norfolk and Suffolk, 5055-5057——The guardians generally exercise their discretion with mildness to the poor, 5058-5063——Medical arrangements in Norfolk and Suffolk, 5064-5066——Qualifications of medical men, 5067-5071——Amount paid for medical relief before and since the unions, 5072-5081——Extent and population of medical districts, 5082-5094——Suggestions for the improvement of the system, 5095-5097——Guardians ought not to interfere with the arrangements made between surgeons and medical clubs, 5098-5110.

Objections to the contract system, 5114, 5115——No strangers have obtained contracts, 5116-5118——Provision for midwifery cases, 5119-5123——Tables showing payments made to medical men by self-supporting dispensaries, 5124-5128——There is a desire to abandon the tender system, and establish fixed salaries, 5129-5132——Objections to the per-case system; principles on which it should be conducted, 5133-5136——The board should never control the discretion of the medical man in ordering meat and wine for individual patients, 5137-5154——Further suggestions with respect to medical relief, 5155-5171——Examination as to the effect of the workhouse on wages, 5179-5189.

[Fifth Examination.]—Witness has heard the evidence of Mr. Ceely, Mr. Rumsey and others, 16052——Many of the suggestions of the medical gentlemen very reasonable, 16054——Reasonable proposition that the cases of casualties occurring beyond an ascertained list, should be paid for separately, 16054——Efficiency of medical arrangements in workhouses might be greatly simplified and increased, provided the drugs for the treatment of cases in the workhouse were supplied by the board of guardians, 16056——It might also be right that certain instruments which are used in severe cases should be supplied, as, for example, a fourniquet, forceps, &c. 16056——The arrangements as to drugs should be left to the Board of Commissioners, 16057-16062——The army and navy are now supplied by contract, regulated by public boards, 16063——Medical offices to unions should not be let by tender, 16067——Remuneration as to out-door relief, as to workhouse payments, 16068, 16069——In Norfolk and Suffolk the medical districts are of the size proposed by medical witnesses, about four or five miles in diameter, 16072, 16073.

Medical assessor hardly necessary, if the recommendations as to districts and remuneration are allowed and acted on, 16074——Value of additional power being given to medical officers, as power of inspection, and authority to report existence of nuisances, or any evils affecting the sanatory state of any neighbourhood, 16074——General favourable opinion now entertained by members of the medical profession of the great importance of the returns which they are obliged to make from week to week, 16075——Returns from hospitals by no means kept with that accuracy throughout the country which is to be wished, 16079——Commissioners now frequently call in for advice eminent physicians; Dr. Southwood Smith and Dr. Arnot have both been recently engaged by the Poor Law Commissioners, 16078——Partial failure of attempting ventilation of workhouses by warm water apparatus, 16079——Evidence as to expediency of calling in local physicians in disputes with medical men in Poor Law Unions, 16078-16084.

Necessity for appointing a medical commissioner appears to witness very exaggerated, 16085——Witness's opinion as to formation of medical benefit societies; rules for the formation of a society, as proposed by witness, handed in, 16087——Evidence as to appointment of coroners; generally, those appointed have no knowledge of medical jurisprudence, and are quite unfit for the discharge of their duties, 16095, 16096——Evidence as to expediency of having medicine chests deposited in the different parishes; the increased expense would not be at all commensurate with the benefits obtained by the arrangement, 16097——Witness has heard a wish expressed that the supply of medicine should be separated from advice; but there exist great difficulties in the way of attempting to carry it out, 16098——The scheme for remuneration might be reasonably aceeded to, 16099-16101——Witness would not separate accidents occurring to permanent poor, who would not be generally liable to midwifery cases or accidents; cases of difficult labour must be considered as casualties, 16102.

[Sixth Examination.]—Puts in returns relative to the increase of steam power in Lancashire, 17130-17133.

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

Kay, Dr. Witness would be glad to see an arrangement as to medical relief on Dr. Kay's plan adopted, *Rumsey* 14937.

Keach, Daniel, of Maulden. Nature of his employment; his wages, family and general circumstances, *Overman* 14551–14572——Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837, earnings of family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Keep, Enoch. A poor man living at Marston (Ampthill Union) alleged to have died of want, having been refused relief; his age, family, circumstances, &c., *Turner* 7001–7035. 7052–7080——Result of further inquiries concerning the ownership of two cottages occupied by himself and son; how rated, *Turner* 8304–8312——Statement of circumstances attending his application; terms on which relief was denied, *Marshall* 9452–9456——Further examination thereon, *Marshall* 10679–10685. 10692–10715——The newspapers contained an account of his death, *Marshall* 13406.

Keighley Union. Much popular excitement prevailed in the formation of the union; witness was assaulted, *Power* 3502–3504.

Kelstern, Lincolnshire. An old incorporation, consisting of 52 parishes, existed when the new law was introduced into Lincolnshire, *Gulson* 1315——It has since been dissolved; Kelstern would not be the most convenient place for the centre of an union, *Gulson* 1363–1365.

Kentish Peasantry. Is in a deplorable state of ignorance; case stated illustrative of this fact, *Hickson* 13231, 13232.

Kerrick, John, Esq. Chairman of the Loddon and Clavering Union; his letter to Dr. Kay, in answer to inquiries respecting the refusal of out-door relief during the winter, *Kay* 4662.

King, George, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——The statement of his income in the table is inaccurate, as he received relief in 1834, *Turner* 8474, 8475——Statement of his income in 1837; amount of outgoings, &c.; earnings of his wife and family; the information derived from his employer, and confirmed by himself, as to his earnings; the scale was applied to the earnings of his wife and family, *Pearse* and *Marshall*, 12512–12519——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

King, John, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowances from the parish; expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. p.* 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——States that he was employed thirty-three weeks and a half at 10*s.*; average earnings of his wife and family, *Pearse* and *Marshall*, 12230–12237——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Kingham, Daniel, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above account, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement of the earnings, &c. of himself and family in 1837, as given by himself; his wages might have been taken at a higher rate, as he works on the railroad, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12383–12392——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Kingham, John, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items of the above account, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57; 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Kirtling, Newmarket Union. Success of a medical club there; salary of the medical officer before the union; his present remuneration by the subscribers, *Power* 4223.

Knight, John. An aged labourer of Westoning; the amount of his income per day; how far it is possible for him to exist upon it, *Turner* 7941–7957——His wife can earn 3*s.* a-week by plaiting and charing; he is rather an infirm man; he has no family with him; he is always relieved during illness; he ought not to be placed on the permanent list, *Marshall* 9732–9741——He travels with a basket; had good summer-work, and will shortly return to supply the place of a shepherd, when he will receive 8*s.* a-week, besides other allowances, *Pearse* 9899-9904——Further inquiry thereon, *Pearse* and *Marshall*

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Knight, John, of Westoning—continued.

12274-12278——Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above account, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

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Labour Rate. The labour-rate had a tendency greatly to deteriorate the value of labour, as the farmer was obliged to take it, and the labourer had no interest in making it valuable, *Gulson* 1577-1579——Trial of the system in Maulden in 1833; principles upon which it was established; its failure, *Overman* 11555, 11556.

Labour Test:

1. *When it should be applied.*
2. *Principles upon which it should be regulated.*
3. *Difficulty and Expense of efficient Superintendence.*
4. *Labour Test: how conducted at Leeds.*
5. *What Labour is applicable in Leicestershire.*

1. *When it should be applied.*

Should not be applied, unless the workhouse test has failed, from want of room, *Gulson* 209-211——Is inferior to the workhouse test on many grounds; affords less protection to the labourer, and is difficult to enforce properly, *Kay* 4669-4683.

2. *Principles upon which it should be regulated.*

The task-work is given as a test, not for the sake of the probable return to the labour employed, *Gulson* 561-576——It is indispensable that the public work should be of such a nature as not to interfere with the labour market, *Gulson* 1593; *Hall* 2271, 2272——The person's whole time should be taken in return for sufficient relief to himself and family; the labour should not interfere with the ordinary labour of the district, *Power* 3434-3436. 3449.

The work should be less eligible to the pauper than the service of a private employer, *Power* 3457-3461——It is absolutely essential that the condition of the man receiving parish relief should be made less eligible than that of the independent labourer, *Hall* 2112-2114. 2287-2290——The work given should be so adjusted as not to be in the least alluring, *Hall* 2124, 2125——That adopted at Nottingham was very good, *Swain* 16919-16922.

The nature of the work being unprofitable, the farmers would be anxious to find work for the men which would produce some return, *Power* 3446, 3447——The labour should be of a remunerating kind to be performed as piece-work; unproductive labour has a demoralizing tendency, *Bull* 6354.

3. *Difficulty and Expense of efficient Superintendence.*

Difficulty of finding work, and providing superintendence, particularly in agricultural parishes, *Gulson* 326-336——In manufacturing districts, public works may be resorted to with benefit, as a means of applying the task-work test, *Gulson* 392-396. 411——In most towns work can be found; in addition to the grinding of corn and breaking stones, roads may be made as at Nottingham and Leicester, *Hall* 2259-2270——The agricultural districts, where the population is scattered, proper superintendence has been provided, *Power* 3421, 3422——Grinding corn for the workhouse by hand-mills is the least objectionable labour; in distant parishes separate superintendence would be necessary, *Power* 3438-3441——In large unions the expense of superintendence would not be disproportionate, *Power* 3442-3445.

4. *Labour Test: how conducted at Leeds.*

Relief given to the able-bodied is now coupled with employment; a material saving has been effected, *Johnson* 4106-4109——Nature of the employment given; the men are paid by the day; the superintendence is not sufficient to prevent them from loitering, *Johnson* 4118-4125——Their earnings are apportioned according to the number of their families; they work a certain number of days in the week, *Johnson* 4126-4131——A day's wages are never given without a day's work, *Johnson* 4136, 4137——The men are anxious to find other work, as the general rate of wages in Leeds is much higher, *Johnson* 4138-4141.

5. *What Labour is applicable in Leicestershire.*

No relief should be given but in return for labour, *Hall* 17028-17043. 17093-17100; *Ingham* 14307——Such out-door labour may be given as would not impair the health of manufacturers, *Swain* 16908-16918; *Hall* 17101-17106——Without injuring health, the wages should be such as to induce the pauper to desire other employment, *Swain* 17117-17129.

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

Labour Test—5. *What Labour is applicable to Leicestershire*—continued.

Difficulty of finding employment for them unconnected with their trade, *Rawson* 16792-16797——Some Gilbert Unions in Leicestershire fixed frames in the workhouse, and manufactured stockings on their own account; ruinous effects of the system; the independent man was forced to underbid them, *Hall* 2141-2145. 2247-2250——The frame-work knitters of Hinckley are aware that their wages were depressed by this means, *Hall* 2146-2148. 2251——The employment of frame-work knitters overstocked the market, and reduced wages, *Rawson* 16787-16791——Failure of attempts of parishes to employ frame-work knitters upon work connected with their trade, *Rawson* 16552-16559——Failure of the labour test in breaking stones at Leicester, *Rawson* 16560-16572——Causes of its failure; the wages given were too high; intimidation used by the men, *Hall* 16972-16986.

See also *Leicester. Manufacturing Districts. Nottingham Union. Tests of Destitution. Workhouse Test.*

Labourers:

I. *Condition generally: whether improved by the Poor Law Act.*
1. Generally.
2. Ampthill Union.
3. Bedfordshire.
4. Norfolk and Suffolk.

II. *Moral Condition.*
1. Generally.
2. Ampthill Union.
3. Bedfordshire.

III. *Physical Condition in the Ampthill Union.*

IV. *Their Feelings respecting the Poor Law Act.*

I. *Condition generally: whether improved by the Poor Law Act.*

1. Generally.

Remarks of the Committee on evidence concerning their character and condition in agricultural districts, *Rep. p.* 12——The amount of suffering endured by labourers has not been great in the intermediate state between the old and new systems of relief, *Hall* 2736, 2737——The condition of the labourers has not deteriorated since the alteration of the law, *Hall* 2780——The proportion of those who have improved in their circumstances since the new law, is greater than of those who have suffered, *Power* 3403-3406——Their condition is improved by advance of wages, or more constant employment, and their earnings have not been misapplied; the reduction of rates leaves more capital to be applied to labour, *Power* 3744——Men with large families are obliged to exercise more forethought and industry than others, and thus become more valuable as servants, and gain better employment, *Kay* 4578——The Poor Law Act renders the domestic comfort and social condition of the labourers depend upon their own industry and fidelity, *Kay* 4775.

2. Ampthill Union.

It is the general impression of the labourers that their condition has been worse since the new law; they have had neither allowances nor work on the roads, *Turner* 5870-5882. 5942-5950——They do not wish to revert to the old system, but desire to be employed by farmers in proportion to the quantity of land held by each, *Turner* 5895-5921——Their circumstances have been growing worse and worse ever since the Poor Law Act, *Crabtree* 8641. 8827, 8828——They attribute their present impoverished condition to the withdrawal of head-money, *Crabtree* 8839, 8840——Many farmers have acknowledged that they were ignorant of the existence of such distress as witness pointed out to them, *Crabtree* 8676-8680——Farmers who have given their opinions that the poor are worse off than they were before the union, Mr. Iliff, Mr. Lyon and Mr. Webb; how far the latter is interested in opposing the new law; he kept public-houses, and was a paid assistant overseer, *Crabtree* 8849-8883.

Comparative statement of the condition of six labourers (three in constant work, and three not in constant work) in each of the parishes of Lidlington, Milbrook, Maulden, Cranfield, Shitlington and Flitwick, in the Ampthill Union, in 1834 and 1837, 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25——Their destitution is generally to be attributed to their habits rather than to want of employment, *Marshall* 9283-9288——The men in Westoning are much better off, and their wives acknowledge that more of their earnings are brought home, *Pearse* 9913, 9914——Their condition and comforts are much improved since the new law, *Overman* 11323——As a body, the labourers have derived benefit from the change in the law, *Overman* 11593.

3. Bedfordshire.

Some of the lower class of labourers are in a wretched state, and were so before the Poor Law Act, *Adey* 5780-5792——The comforts and general habits of the poor are much inferior to those in the North of England; they frequently lie on bundles of straw;

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

Labourers—I. *Condition generally, &c.*—3. Bedfordshire—continued.

in the north, the poor have milk in their tea, in the south they have none, *Turner* 5954-5964——They were much better off before the Poor Law Act, *Turner* 6028-6031——Extracts from petition presented in 1829, from the Hundred of Redbornstoke, describing the condition and conduct of the labourers, and the state of pauperism and crime, *Turner* 6106-6117.

Scantiness of their furniture and cooking utensils; their straw beds described; their condition as compared with that of the hand-loom weavers, *Turner* 7591-7616——The hand-loom weavers of Bolton are better off, *Turner* 7789-7796. 7803——Labourers of good character have sufficient food and clothing, and suitable dwellings; many had not these comforts during the last winter, but are now in full employment, *Pearse* 10777-10786——The condition of agricultural labourers in districts, where there is no straw-plait or lace-trade, must be worse than in Bedfordshire, *Turner* 8138, 8139——Their circumstances, with scarcely an exception, are getting worse every year, *Turner* 8340.

4. Norfolk and Suffolk.

Their means are increased; their own earnings and the increased employment of their children, *Kay* 4521-4535——The annual income of labourers has increased under the operation of the law, and they are more contented with their condition, *Kay* 4840——The comforts of men with large families are increased by receiving more task-work, *Kay* 4881-4883——The condition of the single man is also materially improved; his employment is liable to less interruption, *Kay* 4888-4890——Whatever pressure was occasioned by the change in the law, affected those of imperfect skill or bad character, *Kay* 4909-4912.

II. *Moral Condition.*

1. Generally.

Assurances are received from all quarters, that the character and skill of the inferior labourers have improved, *Kay* 4913.

2. Ampthill Union.

Notwithstanding their extreme poverty, they retain a character, *Turner* 8537——The disposition and general habits of the people are improved in Westoning, *Pearse* 9920, 9921——They no longer come ragged to church; they are more industrious; there is less intoxication, and they are more anxious to obtain work, *Pearse* 9989——The morals of the poor are improved; they are more inclined to be industrious, *Whitehurst* 11123, 11124.

Great improvement in their habits of industry; every man once had a claim upon the parish, who said he could not obtain work, *Overman* 11390-11394——The morals of the labouring classes are improved since the new law, *Musgrave* 13738——Under the old system they had no inducement to conduct themselves well, *Musgrave* 13791, 13792——They are now more willing to work, *Overman* 14204. 14219-14224.

3. Bedfordshire.

Are more civil, and there is a better feeling between them and their employers, *Adey* 5553-5556——Their morals are said to be improved, *Adey* 5631-5633——The feeling between labourers and their employers cannot be improved by the new law; labourers have said it is impossible while they are getting poorer every day; statement of William Cox, *Crabtree* 8899-8904——The new law has not had the effect of producing kindly feelings between labourers and their employers, but the reverse, to an alarming extent, *Turner* 6042-6045——The labourers are good, and their characters generally are respectable, *Overman* 14159.

III. *Physical Condition in the Ampthill Union.*

There is no material difference in the appearance of the able-bodied, since out-door relief has been withdrawn, *Adey* 5539. 5546-5552——The respectable able-bodied would say that they are in more contented and happy circumstances; they prefer the produce of their own labour to parish pay, *Adey* 5692-5698. 5703-5707——In Westoning the appearance of some of the labourers and their families indicated an insufficiency of food, *Turner* 7924——The labourers, particularly those with families, live chiefly on bread and potatoes; they say they have not sufficient, *Crabtree* 8713-8716——Many are so exhausted with their day's work, that they stagger home as if they were drunk; several are prevented from doing an ordinary day's work, by insufficient food, *Crabtree* 8726-8728——Farmers are keeping such men in their constant employ, without being aware of their condition, *Crabtree* 8729-8747.

Witness has not observed their general appearance as indicating an insufficiency of food; they must be wearing out their constitutions, *Crabtree* 8763-8772——Their health compared with that of persons working in the factories, *Crabtree* 8820-8826——There is a general improvement in the physical condition of the poor; their food is improved; they look healthy, *Pearse* 9987, 9988——Their physical condition is not worse; nor have they less means of providing themselves with the necessaries of life; there is no

Reports, 1837–8—*continued.*

Labourers—III. *Physical Condtiion of the Ampthill Union*—continued.

appearance of increased weakness or inability to labour, *Whitehurst* 11125–11127——Physical condition of the labourers in Bedfordshire; the statement of their extreme weakness is absurd and unfounded; their comforts are increased, *Overman* 14509–14520.

IV. *Their Feelings respecting the Poor Law Act.*

All the better class of labourers who are well-informed and industrious, are satisfied with the change in the law; they get more work, and their employers are kinder; their work is done more readily, *Hall* 2452–2456——The complaints of the working classes are confined to the denial of out-door relief to the able-bodied, and to the classification of the workhouse, involving separation of man and wife, *Hall* 2484–2486. 2507–2511——They have no just ground of complaint against the new law; circumstances which may reconcile them to it, *Hall* 2666–2688——The general result of the law is an increase of employment and earnings, and some labourers understand this, *Hall* 2689–2704——A large body of the most intelligent labourers are contented with the change in the law; reasons why as their income is increased, it does not give them general satisfaction, *Kay* 4900–4908——In the Ampthill Union witness has never heard complaints of the new law from well-disposed and industrious labourers, but from those only who have relied upon parish relief, *Whitehurst* 11144–11146.

See also *Allotment System. Allowance System. Ampthill Union. Children. Employment. Out-door Relief. Poor Law Act. Westoning, &c. &c.*

Labouring Classes (*Aylesbury.*) Their circumstances bad; intellectual qualities small; a poor sickly race, *Ceely* 15305–15310.

Lac. This drug is often adulterated with coal, *Thomson* 15542.

Lace-making:

In Bedfordshire: Was much worse in 1837 than in 1834, *Turner* 8108——In the districts in which lace is made, the people are worse off than where straw is plaited, as they earn only half the wages, *Turner* 8139——Not more than half as much can be earned by lace-making as by straw-plaiting, *Pearse* 12765.

In Nottingham: Average wages of 496 lace-makers; number of their families, and their earnings, *Gulson* 543.

Lack, Thomas. A pauper in Ampthill workhouse, sold his furniture before he entered the workhouse; circumstances connected with the separation of the family, *Turner* 7151–7179——He held a very good situation as maltster, which he lost through misconduct; his wife is a very bad manager, *Marshall* 9479——He obtained employment at higher wages, by coming into the workhouse, *Overman* 14717–14719——Further examination relative to the separation of his family in the workhouse; his own statement on the subject; his present wages; sickness of his children, &c., *Turner* 8260–8281——His case, as showing that the sale of furniture is not an indispensable condition of entering the house, *Marshall* 13511–13517.

Lambeth. Ecclesiastical districts comprised therein; unfair representation of each by the guardians, *Mott* 12027–12030; *Shadbolt* 13254——The election of guardians is generally conducted by lists, *Shadbolt* 13243——The guardians are elected from the whole parish, but their nomination is at the vestry hall, where persons interested in it get up the lists, *Shadbolt* 13247–13250.

The local act at Lambeth interferes with the administration of the Poor Law; difficulties of co-operation stated, *Shadbolt* 13272, 13273——There would be no opposition to the repeal of the local Act, *Shadbolt* 13278——When the board was first instituted, there were 200 bastard children receiving relief, of whom only 20 came into the house, *Shadbolt* 13279–13282.

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Lambourne. Average number of able-bodied men receiving relief before the introduction of the Poor Law Act, *Hall* 2646.

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Lancaster, William, of Lidlington. Statement of his earnings and employment, *Overman* 14636–14642.

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Ampthill Union: More men are now employed on the land, and there is a perceptible improvement in the cultivation, even to common observers, *Overman* 11323–11335——There has been a visible increase in the produce of land; England has been supplied with corn without importations, *Overman* 11379–11381——A farmer has a greater inducement to expend capital upon his land, as the men are more willing to work, *Overman* 11389–11392.

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Bedfordshire: The cultivation of land in Bedfordshire is improved by the employment of a greater number of labourers, *Adey* 5543, 5544——The value of property has considerably increased; rents will ultimately rise, but in long leases farmers have the benefit of the reduction of rates, *Adey* 5620–5626——The land is now productive, which had been rendered unproductive by the charges upon it, *Adey* 5627, 5628.

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Leeds. Population and amount of poor-rates, *Johnson* 4044, 4045——The township would be sufficiently extensive and populous for an entire union, *Johnson* 4173–4175——Expenditure of rates; inconvenience attending the annual removal of the board of overseers, *Power* 2924——There is not a sufficient provision of paid officers; duties of the "town's husband," *Power* 2925–2928——The board are subject to impositions by persons applying for relief; proper persons should be appointed to make the necessary inquiries, *Power* 2929–2932——A relieving officer would be appointed by a board of guardians, *Power* 2933–2938——The overseers are frequently inexperienced persons, and are occupied with their business; the management of guardians would be superior, *Johnson* 4160–4166——The election of a board of guardians failed through a defect in the machinery for the collection of the votes, *Johnson* 4169–4171——This would be remedied by adopting the system of municipal elections, and voting for the separate wards, *Johnson* 4172–4176——Subscription for the relief of the poor; no persons were assisted without being required to perform work in return, *Johnson* 4155–4159.

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Leeds Union. Circumstances connected with the election of guardians; division of the union into wards, *Power* 3536, 3537.

Leeds Workhouse. There was a separation of the sexes as regards lodging rooms, but the yard was common to both; there was also some classification of the children, *Power* 2879——Injurious effects of residence in the workhouse, in consequence of imperfect classification of the inmates; hereditary pauperism occasioned, *Power* 3151——Is well managed; proper provision is made both for the food and clothing of the inmates, and for education, *Johnson* 4046–4048——Earnings of the inmates in reduction of the expenses of maintenance, *Johnson* 4053–4055——Imperfect classification; immorality arising out of the present arrangements, *Johnson* 4056–4063.

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Leicester Petition. Observation of the Committee upon the evidence relating thereto, *Rep. p.* 21——Was presented in consequence of the evidence of Messrs. Gulson & Hall before this Committee, *Rawson* 16402–16406——Copy of petition from clergy, merchants, bankers, &c., of Leicester to The House of Commons, 48th *Rep. App. p.* 43.

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Leicester Union. When formed; number of parishes and population; management of the poor in the different parishes before the union, *Hall* 2070–2084; *Rawson* 16426–16433——There was no settled rule as to the use of the workhouse; out-door relief was given in money in proportion to the wages of each applicant, *Hall* 2085–2094——When the workhouse is completed, the rule prohibiting out-door relief will be introduced, *Hall* 2095–2099——Meanwhile the guardians applied an out-door labour test; error of the guardians in fixing the remuneration too high; this test has been discontinued, *Hall* 2100–2118——The prohibitory rule could be enforced if the workhouse were completed, *Hall* 2253, 2254——Peculiar facilities for the employment of the poor on the granite rocks, *Hall* 2255–2258.

The earnings of the frame-work knitters at stone breaking, a proof of their industry; whether the workhouse test should have been applied to them, *Hall* 2467–2483——Account of the earnings of certain paupers whilst employed at breaking stones for particular weeks, 10th *Rep. App. p.* 28——Amount expended for the relief and maintenance of the poor in the years ended 25 March 1833, 1834 and 1835, showing the average expenditure of those three years, and the amount during the year ended 25 December 1837, 10th *Rep. App. p.* 29.

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Leicestershire. Names of Unions; those which are principally manufacturing, distinguished; viz. Hinckley, Leicester, Lutterworth, Loughborough, and Barrow-upon-Soar, *Hall* 2065–2069——There was little resistance offered to the introduction of the Act into Leicestershire, and that has entirely ceased, *Hall* 2457–2463——The absence of popular agitators contributed to its suppression, *Hall* 2464–2466.

The manufacturing population in the villages has not increased, *Rawson* 16712, 16713——Increase of the population; advantages derived by the neighbouring farmers from an improved market, *Rawson* 16682–16685——The farmers will suffer if the new Poor Law should reduce the wages of operatives, *Rawson* 16686–16689——There are many frame-work knitters in the villages where the rate is levied principally on the land, *Rawson* 16424, 16425——Burthens imposed on land by the manufacturing population in Great Wigston and Sheepshead, *Hall* 16997–17004.

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Leighton Buzzard Union. Extent of union; greatest distance of patients from medical aid; number of parishes; amount of population, *Rumsey* 14763——Consequence of attempting, at Leighton Buzzard, to separate, by agreement with the medical men, the public business from private practice, *Rumsey* 14886——Witness believes strangers have been introduced into this union, under Poor Law Act, as medical practitioners, *Rumsey* 14824.

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Lines, Mr., *of Shitlington.* Extract of a letter from him relative to the sum paid by him for labour, and the relative condition of the poor, *Overman* 11374.

Lingar or *Lingard, James, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment and earnings, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, with remarks by Mr. Pearse, showing the result of an inquiry into the various items comprised in the above account, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 26, 57——Statement of his earnings, &c. in 1837; he has neither wife nor family, resides with his mother, and pays no rent; he is employed on the railroad, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12434-12441——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Lingar or *Lingard, William.* A labourer of Westoning; out of work for eight months in 1837; amount of income per head of his family throughout the year; he goes out poaching, *Turner* 7960-7977. 7982-7988——He is a man of very bad character, a notorious poacher, and a very idle man, belonging to a bad family, *Marshall* 9758-9761——He travelled with a basket, except in harvest, and no account could be obtained of his earnings; he has removed from the parish, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12432, 12433——Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. p.* 44, 45——Remarks, by Mr. Pearse, on the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Lingard or *Lingar, Joseph, senior.* A jobbing labourer of Westoning; comparative statement of his income and expenditure in 1834 and 1837, *Turner* 7836-7842; *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12146-12162——Was relieved by the relieving officer to the extent of 1*s.* 9*d.* in bread, and the like sum in money; he spent part of the money at the public-house, *Marshall* 9849, 9850——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Lingard or *Lingar, Joseph, jun., of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry into the various items contained in the above account, so far as regards the year 1837, by Mr. Pearse, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement obtained from his mother and brother as to his earnings, &c. in 1837, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12470-12474——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Ligourice Powder. Manner in which this compound is often made without any liqourice whatever, *Thomson* 15542.

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Liverpool. Management of the poor; state of the workhouse, as represented in report of select vestry; the Poor Law Act could be beneficially introduced, *Power* 3551-3554.

Liverpool Workhouse. The separation of the sexes is not complete; the males and females use one common yard; the children are separately provided for, *Power* 2879——Catholics are permitted to attend mass early in the morning; the inmates of other persuasions attend service in the workhouse chapel, *Power* 3558, 3559——Average number of inmates; number of pigs kept to eat the broken victuals, *Johnson* 4070-4073.

Liversedge Township. Bad management of the poor by the assistant-overseer, who absconded with money; the rate-payers approve of the new law, *Ellison* 5451-5457.

Loans. The guardians may advance loans to the able-bodied by way of relief; during temporary distress this plan should be resorted to, *Gulson* 753, 754——The best way of giving relief on account of illness in a family, is by loan, *Gulson* 1047, 1048——Loans have not been often granted, and generally in cases of sickness only, *Gulson* 1465, 1466——Expediency of granting loans to persons on quitting the workhouse, *Power* 3269——In some cases, instead of offering the workhouse to a labouring man with a family, a loan, is granted to be repaid by instalments, *Musgrave* 14058-14061.

Have sometimes been repaid on application to the magistrates; many have been paid without such application; about one-half are never repaid, *Gulson* 1465-1485——The magistrates frequently do not enforce re-payment; the guardians do not like to apply to them; the magistrates are not favourable to the new law, *Gulson* 1486-1502——The only means by which they can be recovered is by attachment of wages, *Gulson* 1517-1518.

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Local Acts. Observations of the Committee on inconvenience arising therefrom, *Rep. p.* 19——The Poor Law Commissioners should have power to supersede local Acts, for the management of the poor, in order to introduce an uniform system, *Gulson* 1997——Inconveniences arising from local Acts in London, *Corder* 11933; *Mott* 12003——Interference of local boards with the operation of the poor law under boards of guardians; difficulties and dangers that have arisen, *Corder* 11936-11959——All local Acts should be repealed, *Corder* 11960, 11961.

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Loddon and Clavering Union, Norfolk. Letter of the chairman of the Board of Guardians on the refusal of out-door relief during the winter; its consequences, *Kay* 4662.

London City Union. Has 100 elected guardians, *Mott* 12029–12031——Several parishes should be consolidated for the election of one guardian, *Mott* 12032.

Loughborough. See *Leicestershire.*

Louth. Is the market town of a large part of Lincolnshire, *Gulson* 1332.

Louth Union, Lincolnshire Number of parishes; the population and extent, *Gulson* 1313——Population and extent of the parishes of Louth Park, Bellean, Brackenborough and Claythorpe, *Gulson* 1448–1455——Number of relieving officers; in some parishes there is not a single pauper, *Gulson* 1322–1324——The relieving officer visits Trusthorpe, Mablethorpe, Theddlethorpe and Mattley twice a-week, *Gulson* 1333–1335.

Lowens, William, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——This man refuses to give any information as to his earnings in 1837; his wife keeps a school; average number of scholars; she is also mistress of the Sunday school, for which she receives 1*s.* 6*d.* weekly, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12240–12244, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Lunatics. Resolution that better provision should be made for the due custody of pauper lunatics and idiots, either in separate wards in the workhouses, or in district or county asylums, *Rep. p.* 40——It is a very humane provision of the law, that lunatics shall not remain more than 14 days in the workhouse; deplorable cases seen in old parish workhouses, *Gulson* 1781–1783——They are removed to proper asylums, but the expense of maintaining them there sometimes causes a lunatic to be kept in his parish, *Gulson* 1784.

Lunatic Asylums. Average expense, per head, of maintaining paupers in lunatic asylums, *Gulson* 1784——They have been built by contributions from the poor-rate, and great jobs have been made of such establishments, *Gulson* 1794——Abuses and unnecessary expense prevail; unequal rate of expenditure in different asylums, *Gulson* 1796–1805——The Poor Law Commissioners, or Secretary of State, should have power to unite several unions for the purpose of having a common lunatic asylum solely for their paupers, *Gulson* 1785–1788. 1806, 1807——They should be kept distinct from the county lunatic asylums, *Gulson* 1792, 1793.

Lutterworth Union. Number of parishes, population, system of management, &c., *Hall* 2203–2206.

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Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. Pays 1*s.* a head upon its population for poor-rate; this will be decreased; many able-bodied fishermen receive relief, *Gulson* 1359, 1360.

See also *Louth Union.*

Machinery. Witness has been induced to employ machinery in cutting turnips, by his confidence in the industry and honesty of his men; formerly he could not have depended upon them, *Overman* 11570–11583——The introduction of machinery into agriculture has not diminished the means of employing labourers, *Overman* 11584–11587.

Magee, Rev. *A.* Letter on the religious instruction of Roman Catholic paupers in Westminster, *Horrabin* 17160.

Magisterial Divisions. Remarks of the Committee relative thereto, *Rep. p.* 37——Great benefit would arise from making petty session districts and Poor Law Unions coincident; nature of inconveniences that exist, *Gulson* 1403, 1404. 1427–1435. 1440–1447——The centre of the union should be at a place in which petty sessions meet, but the magistrates might also meet elsewhere, *Gulson* 1425——Are often held at public-houses; there are strong reasons against their holding their meetings at the workhouses, *Gulson* 1428, 1429.

See also *Districts.*

Magistrates. The signature of two magistrates to the rate-book must be obtained by the overseer; they often sign it at the board, or at their own houses; the signature of the guardians should be required instead, *Gulson* 1405–1419——Many of them are not favourable to the new Poor Law; they are not operated upon by personal fear, *Gulson* 1492–1494. 1554–1557——They cannot be so well acquainted with facts connected with the poor as the board of guardians; case at Tilehurst, showing the nature of impositions upon them, *Gulson* 1538–1553.

Are applied to by the guardians to make relations support the aged poor when they are able; difficulty of prevailing upon magistrates to make the orders, *Gulson* 308, 309——

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Have power to order out-door relief to the aged, but the guardians are the judges of the amount, subject to the superior decision of a court of justice, *Gulson* 883-894——Before the meeting of the board, the relieving officer would be bound to adhere to their decision, *Gulson* 907-909.

Their discretionary power of granting relief was the cause of the allowance system, *Gulson* 262——Under the old system a magistrate would without inquiry order relief, if it had not been given by the overseer, *Musgrave* 13774.

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Maidenhead, Berks. Administration of the poor in the parishes of Cookham and Bray, showing the nature of the workhouse test as introduced into the former by Mr. Whately, *Gulson* 319-325.

Maldon Union. Expenditure for the relief and maintenance of the poor in each quarter of the year ended 25th December 1837, 11th *Rep., App. p.* 19.

See also *Establishment Charges.*

Manchester. Many thousand Irish are employed at Manchester, because the demand for labour is greater than could be supplied from this country, *Gulson* 851, 852——The cotton trade could never have advanced to its high position without their labour; wages have not fallen for 30 or 40 years, *Gulson* 877-882——The Irish have received out-door relief to a very great extent, both weekly and casual; many have been attracted by it, *Power* 3599-3603——There is a board for the management of the poor under a local Act, the members of which, are always changing; the Poor Law Act could be introduced with benefit, *Power* 3546-3550.

Manchester Workhouse. There is the most rigid classification; an entire separation of the sexes, and a girl's department, *Power* 2879——Copy of the dietary, 10th *Rep. App. p.* 30.

Mansfield. While the workhouse was building, the labour-test was applied, *Gulson* 367——The population is manufacturing, *Gulson* 398——Evils of the system adopted there of employing operatives out of the poor-rates in manufacturing hosiery, and depressing wages; voluntary rate collected, *Gulson* 403-405——Difficulty of finding employment on public works, *Gulson* 408-410.

Manufactures. The present Poor Law shortens the duration of manufacturing pressure; it adds a strong stimulus to the labourer, and obliges the employers to avoid half measures, *Hall* 2348-2353——Pernicious effect of the system of granting relief in aid of wages upon the state of manufactures; disturbance of the proportion between supply and demand, *Hall* 2497-2504.

Manufacturing Districts:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Applicability of the Poor Law Act to them.*
3. *Lancashire and West Riding of York.*

1. *Generally.*

Where wages are high, there is more improvidence amongst the working classes than in agricultural parishes, *Gulson* 1594, 1595. 1600-1602——Propriety of requiring their employers to lay up part of their wages, upon the same principle as the Superannuation Fund in public departments, *Gulson* 1596-1599——It is fair that the agriculturist should assist in the support of the manufacturing poor, *Rawson* 16669-16674.

2. *Applicability of the Poor Law Act to them.*

Opinions of the Committee on the applicability of the Poor Law Act to manufacturing districts, *Rep. p.* 11——The workhouse test cannot always be applied, and the test by task-work is the next best that can be resorted to; there is no danger of its leading to a permanent burthen, *Gulson* 66-70——The labour test is effective, by reason of the usual employments of operatives, and thus there are two tests, instead of one, *Gulson* 392-397——The strict workhouse test cannot at all times be applied; but the principle of applying some test to the necessities of the poor has been proved as fit for manufacturing districts as for others, *Gulson* 782, 783——The violent opposition to the Poor Law arose from misconception of its nature and objects; in Sheffield it was very unpopular, but is now working quietly and satisfactorily, *Gulson* 784, 785——The poor will find that the rules of the Commissioners will not act severely or harshly with them in any respect, *Gulson* 786.

The Poor Law Act is not less applicable to manufacturing than to rural districts, *Hall* 2131, 2132——Relief will be satisfactorily administered under the rules of the Commissioners, *Power* 2911-2914——Advantages of introducing the Poor Law Act; expenditure will be reduced, and properly accounted for, and relief will be given where required, *Power* 3141-3144——The introduction of the Poor Law Act would be beneficial both to

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the rate-payer and to the deserving poor, *Johnson* 4178–4180——The introduction of the Poor Law Act has produced a kindly feeling between the work-people and their masters; their altered conduct in times of difficulty, *Hall* 2354–2356——If the introduction of the Poor Law Act be persevered in in the north, it will lead to bloodshed; propriety of avoiding the use of inflammatory language, *Bull* 6745–6749——If the manufacturing districts were exempted from the operation of the Poor Law Act, the people would still be dissatisfied, as there will be an unnatural influx of labourers, and the wages of operatives will be reduced, *Bull* 6273–6276.

3. *Lancashire and West Riding of York.*

In the populous townships there was almost invariably an assistant overseer, and sometimes a vestry clerk to keep accounts, *Power* 2828–2831——Some were governed by open vestry, but most of them by select vestries, or parochial committees, *Power* 2832–2834——Out-door relief was nearly always given to the able-bodied, *Power* 2835–2840——The payment of rent was the usual form of relief, *Power* 2843, 2844——Relief was given in aid of wages, but this practice was not universal, *Power* 2843, 2844.

Number of unions formed; number in which the regulations of the Commissioners have been introduced, *Power* 2892, 2893——Rate-payers have complained of abuses in the administration of relief, arising from the imperfect means of acquiring information, *Power* 2942–2950——The rates upon the population in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire are lower than in any other county, *Power* 2951–2953——There was a strong feeling against the introduction of the Poor Law Act, but not universally, *Power* 2953——In very few cases the majority of a board of guardians have been opposed to a fair trial of the new law, *Power* 2961, 2962.

See also *Labour-Test. Leicester. Nottingham Union. Out-door Relief*, 9. *Wages*, 6.

Market Bosworth Union. See *Gilbert Unions.*

Marlow, William, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Refuses to give any information respecting his own earnings, or those of his wife and family, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

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MARRIAGES:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Ampthill Union.*
3. *Leicester.*

1. *Generally:*

There have been fewer early and indiscreet marriages since the alteration of the Poor Law, *Hall* 2405——The number of improvident marriages has been much reduced by the discontinuance of the allowance system, *Kay* 4751–4754——Return of marriages of labourers in the years 1833, 1834, 1835 and 1836, in several parishes in Norfolk and Suffolk, as reported by relieving officers, 15th *Rep., App. p.* 28.

2. *Ampthill Union.*

There is not a greater disinclination to marry since the new law, *Turner* 7202——The wages of the single men are so much lower than those of married men, that there is an inducement to marriage, *Turner* 7305. 7313–7317——Increase in the number of marriages within the last three years, as compared with the number in the three years previous, *Pearse* 9931——Extract from letter of Mr. Swaffield, concerning the decrease of improvident marriages, in consequence of the improved wages of single men, *Overman* 11409——Have decreased; statement of number amongst agricultural labourers in several parishes, for three years preceding and subsequent to the Poor Law Act, *Overman* 11643–11651——Young labourers being thrown on their own resources, will be as provident in their marriages as persons are in a higher class; the old poor law encouraged improvidence, *Overman* 11656–11666.

3. *Leicester.*

Early marriages are prevalent amongst the operatives; young men do not save money, but live rather better than married men, who suffer great privations, *Swain* 16866–16875.

Marshall, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Relieving officer of the Ampthill Union, since July 1835, 8944–8946——Had been serjeant-major of a regiment of Dragoons, and paymaster's clerk; testimonials of Sir Charles Dalbiac and others, 8947–8957——Was elected to the eastern district, comprising eleven parishes, 8958–8960——In June 1836 undertook the whole union, as his duties were diminished by the decrease of pauperism,

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8961-8966——After the completion of the workhouse in February 1836, out-door relief was refused to the able-bodied, 8967-8972——Lives at Ampthill, which is central, both as regards distance and population, 8973-8988——Thursday is the board-day; he attends, and lays the cases of paupers before them, 8989-8990.

Applications are usually made to him on Thursday mornings; when he is not acquainted with cases, provisional orders are made, and he gives relief until the next meeting of the board, 8991-8998——The pauper always appears before them, and on retiring, witness is examined as to the case, 8999——The union books enumerated, 9000-9006——Witness has never refused to enter a name in the application-book, or to permit a pauper to appear before the board, 9007-9009——If he applies after the book has been laid before the board, he must come next week; if it be a case of urgency, relief is given in the meanwhile, 9010-9013——Duration of the sittings of the board, 9014-9016——Goes to Houghton on Friday morning, and pays the poor at the old workhouse, 9017-9020——Inconvenience of not having a room for the purpose, 9021, 9022——The parish officers do not attend; witness would be glad to see them, 9023, 9024.

The baker visits every parish at stated hours, 9025, 9026——Witness remains half an hour; receives applications, and gives relief in urgent cases, 9027-9032——Sometimes visits the sick, 9033, 9034——How articles ordered by the doctor are provided, 9035——Cases in which he would visit the houses, 9036-9039——That would be done in cases of sickness in a family, 9040-9046——At Hawnes he relieves the poor at a room hired for the purpose, 9047-9054——At Clophill, in the old workhouse, 9055-9063——Number relieved in the three parishes, 9064——At Gravenhurst he pays the paupers in the street, 9065-9071——At Shitlington he pays them in the public-house, 9072-9078——Visits Higham next, 9079-9081.

[Second Examination.]—No room is wanted at Higham; there are only two or three old paupers, 9091-9097——At Silsoe he pays the poor in the church-porch; their numbers, 9098-9108——At Maulden, in the school-room, 9109-9117——Visits Lidlington on Saturday morning, and pays the poor in the church-porch, 9118-9129——The aged may send some one to receive the allowance, if unable to come themselves, 9130-9135——At Marston pays in a house belonging to the parish, 9136-9144——At Cranfield, in the national school, 9145-9152——At Milbrook, in a huckster's shop, 9153-9160——At Ampthill, in the union workhouse, 9161-9167——On Monday visits Flitton; pays the poor in the church, 9168-9171——At Pulloxhill also pays them in the church, 9172-9176——At Westoning, in the church-porch, very much exposed to the weather, 9177-9182.

Population and number of paupers at Flitwick, 9183-9186——Of Steppingly; pays the poor in the street, except in bad weather, 9187-9192——Time taken up in making out the accounts of the several parishes, and receiving applications at home, 9193-9200——Does not visit any of the parishes unexpectedly as a general rule, but does so occasionally, 9201-9208——The overseers give relief if application is made after witness has left a parish, 9209-9211——Instructions distributed by the board amongst the overseers, 9212-9216——Cases in which relief given by overseers has been disallowed, 9217, 9218——It is desirable that families should be visited frequently, in order to observe changes in their circumstances, 9219-9222——This cannot be done when they reside at a distance, 9223, 9224——On a first application, if witness does not know the party, he visits the family, 9225-9227.

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have given orders for medical relief, 9346-9349——All overseers do not know their duties; some can neither read nor write, 9350-9352——Susan Bunker applied personally to the board, and was admitted, contrary to the usual practice; her son was offered the workhouse infirmary, 9353-9359. 9367-9377——Witness always enters applications in his book, 9360-9366——Application of Susan Bunker for payment of the women who laid out her son, 9378-9380——Manner in which funeral expenses are defrayed, 9381-9386—— If Susan Bunker had applied to the overseer, the women would have been paid, 9387-9393——Witness never exercises his own discretion as to who shall see the board, 9394-9400.

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Case of Jemima Walker, 10189-10209——Of Jane Hawkins, 20212-10218——Of Wilson, of Steppingley; principles on which medical relief is given or withheld, 10223-10291. 10363-10441——Examination as to witness's occupations before he was elected relieving officer, 10292-10340——He was chosen provisionally, and afterwards permanently, to a district, and then to the whole union, 10341-10362——Further inquiry into the case of Ruth Cole, 10442-10483.

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[Sixth Examination.]—Ruth Cole's case continued, 10484–10508. 10525–10566——Applications of John Cole since the death of his wife, 10509–10524. 10567–10584——Further examination relative to Mark Herbert's wife, 10585–10678——And Enoch Keep, 10679–10685. 10692–10715.

[Seventh Examination.]—Further particulars relative to the case of Enoch Keep, 13403–13414——The labourers of the Ampthill Union can earn sufficient wages; but it is not the duty of the relieving officers to make inquiry into that subject, 13453–13462. 13591——The strict workhouse principle requires the goods to be sold, and all the family to enter the house; it has never been enforced in the Ampthill Union, 13490–13502——Relief has been refused to persons having property that might be sold, but never to persons having nothing but their furniture, 13503–13506——Further inquiry respecting the wages of Wilson, 13519–13527——He was refused relief because he was an able-bodied man; circumstances of his family at the time of his application, 13528–13537——Further remarks on the case of Sarah Bunker, 13538–13544. 13546–13563.

Additional questions respecting the case of Sarah Billington, 13566–13575. 13579–13583——The amount of relief given is varied according to the changing circumstances of the recipient, 13576–13578——Names of the twenty-one labourers of Ampthill Union visited by witness and Mr. Pearse on the first day of Mr. Pearse's inquiry into the rate of wages received by them, 13584–13589——The earnings were the same as returned in Mr. Pearse's table. 13590——The people were very reluctant to name their earnings, 13591–13592——Names of labourers doing task-work when visited by Mr. Pearse, 13598.

Marshall, Mr. See *Ampthill Union.*

Marston Moretaine (*Ampthill Union.*) Population and number of paupers; when visited by the relieving officer; the poor are paid in a house belonging to the parish, *Marshall* 9136–9144——The large proportion of paupers to the population is to be attributed to the abuses that prevailed under the old system, *Marshall* 9228——List of labourers out of work in May; time they have been without employment, *Crabtree* 9082. 9086–9090——Extract from letter of Mr. T. Bennett, a farmer, on the increase of wages and employment in that parish; diminution of poor-rates, &c., *Overman* 11398——Return, from the churchwarden, of the number of marriages solemnized by agricultural labourers, from 1 January 1832 to 31 December 1837, *Overman* 11651.

Martindale, alias *Dale, John.* See *Dale,* alias *Martindale, John.*

Mary's, St., Whitechapel, Workhouse. In 1836 the schoolmaster was a lad of 18; had been a pauper all his life; received 2*s.* 6*d.* per week; the schoolmistress was also a pauper, *Hickson* 13241.

Mary-le-bone, St., Workhouse. The schoolmaster and his wife are paid 80*l.* per annum, *Hickson* 13241——Letter from Rev. Mr. Picquot, on the permission given to paupers to leave the workhouse on Sunday, *Horrabin* 17160.

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Maulden (*Bedfordshire.*) Population and number of paupers; when visited by the relieving officer, the poor are paid in the school-room, *Marshall* 9109–9117——A man who is willing to have a day's work, can easily get it; there are not many out of employment, *Overman* 11338, 11339——Before the new law, many were kept by the parish; their work was of no value; they could not be made to work, *Overman* 11340–11343——Number of men employed on a farm of 500 acres ploughed and 130 acres of grass, *Overman* 14162–14174——There were not more than one or two labourers out of employment last winter, *Overman* 14661–14669——List of men out of employment in January and February, *Turner* 14670–14674——Examination of this list; particulars relative to certain labourers named therein, *Overman* 14675–14679.

The allowance system did not prevail in that parish; but men turned off by farmers, received out-door relief, *Overman* 11593–11597——Sums paid out of an apprenticeship fund; late instances of Thomas Benham and William Brown offering to advance half the money on apprenticeship of their sons, *Overman* 11605——Comparative statement of the condition of six labourers (three in constant work, and three not in constant work) in 1834 and 1837, 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

See also *Labour Rate.*

Mechanical Trades. See *Children. County Schools. Education.*

Medical Assurance Societies. Appendix (A.) draft of circular respecting medical assurance societies for husbandmen and mechanics, *Kay* 16102.

Medical Benefit Societies. Opinion as to formation of medical benefit societies; rules for the formation of a society handed in, *Kay* 16087.

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Medical Clubs. Measures taken for their formation; rate of payment; whether guardians have compelled medical men to belong to them, *Gulson* 1908–1922——Letter of Mr. Power, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner to Boards of Guardians, recommending the establishment of medical clubs with suggestions, 13th *Rep. p.* 10——Extent to which an obligation was imposed on medical men by the guardians, to establish independent medical clubs, *Power* 4195–4214——Places in which the plan has been successful; opposition encountered from medical men, *Power* 4215–4237——Data on which the amount of remuneration was proposed to be settled, *Power* 4238–4249.

The object of medical clubs is to enable the working classes to provide good medical attendance out of their own resources, instead of resorting to the parish, *Power* 4194——The privilege exercised by the guardians of adding names to the schedule has been abandoned; manner in which new cases are provided for, *Power* 4265–4270——The system of a pauper schedule and independent club is the only one by which a person can go at once to the doctor, without the interference of some authority, *Power* 4347–4351——Medical clubs give the only means of predetermining who shall be entitled to receive medical relief, *Power* 4373–4381.

The guardians ought not to interfere with any arrangements made between medical practitioners and the poorer classes, *Kay* 5098–5110——Medical clubs as now adopted under the sanction and discretion of Poor Law Commissioners, highly prejudicial to the poor, and to the medical profession, *Rumsey* 15056——A club of independent labourers should not be under the control of guardians of poor, *Rumsey* 15057——The present system does not provide proper medical attendance for the poor; it is a contract between medical men and the poor, without any protection for the latter, *Rumsey* 15064, 15065——Poor Law Guardians should have nothing to do with medical clubs; their interference would deter any medical man from having any thing to do with them, *Ceely* 15504.

Number of subscribers in the Ampthill Union; amount of subscriptions, &c. *Marshall* 9720–9731——Number established in the unions of Keynsham and Wincanton (Somerset), terms of subscription, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 41.

See also *Coltishall. Friendly Societies. South Shields.*

Medical Commissioners, or Guardians:

1. *In Favour of the Appointment of.*
2. *Against the Appointment of.*

1. *In Favour of the Appointment of.*

There should be a medical supervision by a medical commissioner appointed by Government, having authority in the matter of medical relief, *Rumsey* 15020——In the absence of such an officer, disputes between medical men and guardians would not be easily settled, *Rumsey* 15024——Should be appointed by Government, and have the same relation to the Poor Law Commissioners that the army and navy medical department have to the Horse Guards and Admiralty, *Rumsey* 15026——A medical referee should be appointed, with certain powers to act between medical men and the boards of guardians, to agree upon districts and scales of payment adapted to the peculiarities of each district, *Ceely* 15641——Witness approves of Mr. Rumsey's plan for the appointment of a medical commissioner; the affairs of the poor laws cannot be well conducted without medical knowledge and medical control, *Ceely* 15467–15469.

Resident medical men should elect a medical man to confer with guardians, and to divide the unions into medical districts, *Farr* 15826——Power which witness would give medical men as to payment, size of districts, and the remuneration of medical men, *Farr* 15839——The appointing a medical commission as a control over medical officers would be beneficial, *Hall* 15992–15994, 16033——It would be satisfactory to the profession and useful to the poor, if there were some medical guardian appointed who should be referred to in medical cases connected with the poor, *Cooper* 16042——No satisfaction would result as to remuneration, without reference to professional authority, *Hall* 15991.

2. *Against the Appointment of.*

A medical assessor is hardly necessary, if the recommendations as to districts and remuneration were allowed and acted on, *Kay* 16074.

The necessity for appointing a medical commissioner appears to witness very exaggerated, *Kay* 16085.

Medical Districts:

1. *Present Size of Districts.*
2. *Evils of large Districts.*
3. *Parochial Distribution recommended.*
4. *Population of Districts.*

1. *Present Size of Districts.*

Table exemplifying the size of unions or districts entrusted to individual medical officers, *Rumsey* 14763——Have usually been made with reference to the residences of medical

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Medical Districts—1. *Present Size of Districts*—continued.

medical men, but may be altered, if necessary, *Gulson* 1769–1773——The districts should be of such an extent as to make the salary an object of importance to the medical man, *Gulson* 1774–1778——List of unions formed under Poor Law Commissioners in which the residence of the medical men is a considerable distance from many parts of the district, *Farr* 15704–15706

Whether medical men do not prefer distant parishes, in order that the number of applications may be diminished, *Gulson* 1862–1871——The residence of the medical man should be in the most populous part; the poor in distant parishes are not worse off than the lower class of rate-payers, *Gulson* 1888–1892——Present average size of medical districts is 21·4 square miles, and the average population 5,188, *Farr* 15821——Evidence as to the area of unions for medical attendance, *Farr* 15825——In Norfolk and Suffolk the medical districts are of the size proposed by medical witnesses, about four or five miles in diameter, *Kay* 16072, 16073——Information supplied chiefly by chairmen of unions concerning the districts of medical officers in Norfolk for 1837, *Kay*, 44th *Rep. App. p.* 15 ——Similar information respecting Suffolk, *Kay*, 44th *Rep. App. p.* 16.

2. *Evils of large Districts.*

Advantage of having compact medical districts; saving of time and trouble, *Gulson* 1709–1714——Small districts are best, as the influence of richer patients is useful in inducing proper attention to the poor, *Rumsey* 14776——Evils attending large districts, *Farr* 15718; *Cooper* 16036——Medical advice is not so accessible as formerly, owing to extent of districts, and reduction of number of medical attendants, *Rumsey* 14750—— A reduction of the size of districts would remedy many of the present evils, *Rumsey* 14975; *Hall* 16033——The great evil of the present system is, that it removes the paupers from prompt and adequate attendance, *Rumsey* 15434; *Nixon* 16336.

Advantages of small medical districts, especially in enabling medical men to stimulate private charity more effectually than they can in large unions, *Ceely* 15396–15398—— Ought not to exceed 12 square miles, *Elliotson* 15856——In justice to the poor, medical districts should be as small as possible, *Elliotson* 15859——Medical districts are much too large; it is impossible the poor can be properly attended to, *Toogood* 15891, 15919 ——If proper arrangements were made, a diameter of four or five miles would be quite large enough, *Toogood* 15892——Medical districts should be much reduced in size, *Hall* 15986——A district of the diameter of four or five miles would be of a proper size, *Hall* 15988——Districts should be made smaller, with a diameter of about five miles, *Cooper* 16038–16050——Sir Astley Cooper's statement relative to the distance medical officers should reside from the population, *Nixon* 16316, 16317.

3. *Parochial Distribution recommended.*

The old distribution of parishes among medical men is not entirely altered, as implied in the Report of Commissioners; instances in which it was not necessary, *Rumsey* 14790–14792——A number of medical men scattered over the district are preferable to one in a central part of a large district; there are ten medical men in Saffron Walden and Newmarket Unions, *Power* 4284——The present districts should be abolished, and medical men should be appointed to the separate parishes, *Rumsey* 14964——Advantages of parochial appointments, *Ceely* 15444——Extent of medical districts should be regulated by size and population, *Ceely* 15445–15451——Plan proposed for parochial medical relief to the poor, *Webster* 15170.

4. *Population of Districts.*

List of places in which the unions are so formed, that the medical officer has very large populations under his care, *Farr* 15707——No medical man ought properly to undertake the treatment of a population of more than 12,000, *Elliotson* 15872——Medical men who undertake the care of dense population, would have a sufficient duty to perform with a population of 10,000 or 12,000, *Hall* 15996.

See also *Aylesbury. Aylesford. Banbury. Buckley. Dover. East Hampstead. Epping. Eton. Faversham. Hambledon. Leighton Buzzard. Medical Relief. Newbury. Newport Pagnell. Ongar. Parliamentary Returns. Penshurst Union. Shipton-on-Stour. Stow Union. Strangers, Introduction of, as Medical Officers. Tenders by Medical Practitioners under Poor Law. Tendring. Thame. Tonbridge. Wallingford. Weekly Returns. Woodbridge. Wycombe.*

Medical Friendly Societies. See *Friendly Societies.*

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Medical Officers:

1. *Qualifications necessary for Officers to Poor Law Unions.*
2. *Evil of appointing Deputies.*
3. *Mode of Appointment recommended.*
4. *Power which should be given them.*
5. *Difficulty of procuring Evidence from.*
6. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

1. *Qualifications necessary for Officers to Poor Law Unions.*

Qualifications which should be possessed by medical men applying for parochial appointments, *Ceely* 15472——Legal qualifications necessary; a member of the College of Surgeons or Physicians has no right to practise as an apothecary, *Power* 4318–4327——Most members of the Royal College of Surgeons are also licentiates of the Apothecaries' Company, *Kay* 5067–5071——Written testimonials of character are not judged sufficient; benevolence and kindness of disposition should be the first qualities for a medical attendant on the poor, *Gulson* 1882—— Qualifications necessary for any medical officer attending the poor, *Rumsey* 14976–14978.

Before a gentleman is appointed to a district, he should be of some standing in the profession, and should have resided in the neighbourhood prior to his appointment, *Toogood* 15898——Present mode of appointment very improper; guardians of poor not sufficiently good judges, *Toogood* 15921–15923——He should have been two years in actual practice, *Hall* 15977——At least two years in the locality, and one in practice, *Hall* 16023——No man should be permitted to practise parochially, unless he has passed the ordeal of Apothecaries' Hall, has the diploma of the College of Surgeons, and has undergone an examination before a Midwifery Board, *Cooper* 16050——Information derived from clerks of unions respecting number of duly qualified medical practitioners in each union, 44th *Rep. App. p.* 18.

2. *Evil of appointing Deputies*

Permission to engage deputies will in no way obviate the evil of extensive medical districts; it must deprive the poor of necessary attendance in sickness, *Rumsey* 14785–14786——Evils of allowing contractors to engage deputies, *Rumsey* 14786.

3. *Mode of Appointment recommended.*

The power of choosing medical officers should be vested in rate-payers, and the election conducted by voting-papers, *Rumsey* 14815——Medical appointments for parochial purposes should be made by the rate-payers; and the power of fixing the remuneration should be removed from the guardians, *Rumsey* 14974——Boards of guardians exhibit as much partiality in medical appointments as was formerly shown by parishes, *Rumsey* 14805——There is some improvement as to control, over medical officers, but the parties who exercise the supervision cannot be considered as competent, *Rumsey* 14807, 14808——Witness would be glad to see any arrangements by which the poor would be able to choose their own medical attendants; but such a system would not be likely to throw the poor into the hands of the best qaalified medical men, *Rumsey* 15014–15018——Evils of the present system might be remedied without giving power to rate-payers, *Rumsey* 15028——Any mode of election tending to injure the character of a medical practitioner must have a bad operation on the poor, *Ceely* 15411 ——Medical men should be responsible to the local authorities; any arrangement which would not produce individual responsibility, must be defective, *Ceely* 15415, 15416——They cannot be dismissed by the guardians without the sanction of the Commissioners, which, however, would be instantly given, *Gulson* 1814.

4. *Power which should be given them.*

Value of additional power being given to medical officers, as power of inspection, and authority to report existence of nuisances or any evils affecting the sanatory state of any neighbourhood, *Kay* 16074.

5. *Difficulty of procuring Evidence from.*

Difficulty of procuring evidence from medical men as to the operation of the new mode of treating the sick poor, owing to their fear of giving offence to local authorities, *Rumsey* 14748.

6. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

Information derived from clerks of unions respecting salaries of medical officers in incorporations under local Acts before the interference of commissioners, and in unions, or in incorporations since the interference of commissioners, 17th *Rep. App., p.* 24; 44th *Rep. App. p.* 15——Information supplied chiefly by chairmen of unions concerning the districts of medical officers in Norfolk in the year ending March 1837, 17th *Rep., App. p.* 24——*Ib.* in Suffolk, 17th *Rep., App. p.* 25——Information derived from clerks of unions respecting number of duly qualified resident medical practitioners in each union, 17th *Rep., App. p.* 27.

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MEDICAL RELIEF:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Ampthill Union.*
3. *Leicester and Hinckley Unions.*
4. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*
5. *Comparative Merits of the old and new Systems.*
6. *Suspended Orders.*
7. *Suggestions of Improvement.*

1. *Generally.*

Summary of evidence relating thereto, with observations, suggestions and resolution of the Committee, *Rep. pp.* 22–25——Relief is generally given in case of illness in the family, and reported to the Assistant Commissioner, *Gulson* 1038–1043. 1047–1052—— The sick have wine, &c., as ordered by the medical men, and receive more attention in this respect from the guardians than they did from the overseer, *Gulson* 1044, 1045—— An exception is made to the rule, prohibiting out-door relief in favour of cases of sickness; relief is given in such cases to the family when necessary, *Gulson* 1683–1686.

Duties of the relieving officer, *Gulson* 1687–1689——The sick are constantly provided with such articles of food as may appear necessary on the certificate of the medical officer, *Gulson* 1691, 1692——Neither the law nor the rules of the Commissioners require alteration, *Gulson* 1676-1678——In cases of emergency medical relief may be granted by the overseers and churchwardens, and by justices of the peace, to persons whether settled in the union or not, *Gulson* 1679–1682——Every person who could have been applied to under the old law may still give relief, and others are added, *Gulson* 1693–1698——In the pauperised districts, half the number only receive medical relief of those who formerly had it; the rest provide themselves, *Gulson* 1715–1717——All the poor were once medically pauperised; the guardians now exercise a discretion, but humanely, *Gulson* 1718–1723——The classes of persons to be attended must be determined by rate-payers and guardians, *Farr* 15784——Medical relief should be found for all that class of the population which has not a surplus over necessary subsistence to provide medical assistance for themselves, *Farr* 15788.

Medical men who first opposed the new system now cordially support it, and the poor make no complaints, *Gulson* 1745–1747——Is more liberally given than any other species of relief, because a man has less power to guard against sickness, *Gulson* 1838–1841—— Is sometimes refused, and at others granted upon loan; mode of recovering the loan, *Gulson* 1872–1877——The overseer frequently sends to the medical men, and the expense of the message is allowed by the auditor, *Gulson* 1941–1943.

No definite arrangements have been made in the northern unions; the Commissioners have postponed them until after the Report of this Committee, *Power* 4291–4293—— Modes in which medical relief may be given by guardians where medical clubs are established, to persons not belonging to such clubs, *Power* 4307——Discretion is left to the guardians to adopt that mode of medical relief which they deem most expedient, *Power* 4310, 4311——In urgent cases the doctor would not wait for an order from the relieving officer, *Power* 4352–4354——If the overseer refused an order, he would be liable to indictment, if evil consequences ensued; and the relieving officer refusing, would not only be liable to indictment, but would be dismissed, *Power* 4357–4363—— How far relief, when there is sickness in a family, is to be regarded as different from ordinary pauperism, *Marshall* 9336–9340.

Since witness has commenced his inquiries, the force of public opinion has produced amelioration in the medical arrangements, *Rumsey* 14753——Analysis of the cost of medicine, charge for medical advice, and expense of journies, *Farr* 15797, 15798——Former opinions of Commissioners, that, on the whole, the medical attendance seemed to be adequately supplied, and economically, if price and amount of attendance were considered, *Rumsey* 14829.

2. *Ampthill Union.*

It is witness's belief that death has ensued in some cases from the want of medical relief; the only facts to prove this are, that there was neglect, and that death followed, *Turner* 7371–7373——In several cases relief has been refused where the wives were sick, but not when the man has been sick himself, even if a member of a benefit club, *Turner* 8324–8329——In no case has death ensued among the poor for want of medical assistance, *Marshall* 9502, 9503——The relieving officer gives an order on a shop to provide articles, recommended by the doctor, and the bill is laid before the board, *Marshall* 9035——In case of any illness in a family, he gives an order for the attendance of the doctor, and is guided by his instructions in giving relief, or allowing a nurse, *Marshall* 9041–9044.

Practice of the board in giving medical relief in cases where the wife or children are sick; relief is not given when the man's wages are sufficient, *Marshall* 9260–9270——

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

MEDICAL RELIEF—2. *Ampthill Union*—continued.

A man not previously receiving parish relief, falling sick, and being unable to pay the doctor, is at once constituted a pauper, and is entitled to medical relief, *Marshall* 9814——The relieving officer is only authorized to order medical relief in cases of sudden and urgent necessity; grounds on which he forms his judgment, *Marshall* 10247–10263. 10380–10398——In cases of accident, either the relieving officer or overseer would instantly give an order without reference to the destitution of the parties, *Marshall* 10265–10270——In other cases the board decide according to the circumstances of the family; medical relief is not given when a man can provide it himself, *Marshall* 10271–10291——If a poor man's wife were suddenly taken in labour, the overseer should be applied to, and there is not a pauper in the union who does not know it, *Marshall* 10385–10398——In cases of illness, families receive relief and medical attendance at home, *Musgrave* 14083–14085.

3. *Leicester and Hinckley Unions.*

In the Leicester and Hinckley Unions there is better security for the proper attendance of the sick poor than there was before the unions were formed, *Hall* 2330, 2331.

4. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

Principles on which it is administered in Norfolk and Suffolk, *Kay* 4829–4831——The boards of guardians, with one or two exceptions, give fixed salaries to the medical officers in proportion to the population, &c.; they are permitted to provide themselves with professional assistance, *Kay* 5064–5066——The arrangements are more satisfactory than those which existed previously to the formation ef the unions, *Kay* 5072——Proportion of sums paid for medical relief since the Poor Law Act to the previous expenses, *Kay* 5073–5081——Extent and population of medical districts, *Kay* 5082–5089.

5. *Comparative Merits of the old and new Systems.*

When parishes contracted separately for medical attendance on the poor, they obtained it as cheaply as they could, and there was no one to whom the medical man reported the cases under his care, *Gulson* 1748–1755——There was no security for proper medical treatment under the old law; quack medicines, Morrison's pills, &c., were administered, *Gulson* 1053–1057——The chief evil of the old administration of medical relief arose out of the contracts with medical men to attend all cases of sickness at a fixed salary; this encouraged medical pauperism, *Power* 4181–4183. 4190–4194——Evidence collected by witness, proves that medical advice is not so accessible as it formerly was to the paupers, by reason of the extent of unions, and reduction of the number of medical attendants, *Rumsey* 14750——Under the present system, greater facilities should be afforded the poor of receiving medical assistance than now exists, *Ceely* 15442——The poor can neither obtain proper medicine nor proper attendance under the present system, *Farr* 15846——In the per-case system, the overseers, churchwardens and justices of the peace may give orders as well as the relieving officer and board of guardians, *Power* 4329–4339——More persons can now give orders than under the old law, *Power* 4371——Under the per-case system, improper objections might be made by overseers to the relief of cases of emergency, but this objection will be removed in time; remuneration sufficient for medical officers, *Kay* 5133–5136——The per-case system is preferable to the indefinite contract formerly made with the medical man, *Power* 4259–4261.

6. *Suspended Orders.*

Great expense was sometimes incurred by parishes in suspended orders of removal; abuses prevailed that were connived at by the parish authorities, *Gulson* 1724–1729——The charge of suspended orders of removal has been taken into account in fixing the amount of salary to medical officers, *Gulson* 1842–1853.

7. *Suggestions of Improvement.*

The expense of medical attendance should bear a proportion to the number of sick attended in the parish, *Kay* 5095——All paupers in the receipt of out-door relief should be entitled to medical attendance on presenting a certificate to that effect, without the intervention of an order, *Kay* 5095——The per-case system should be applied to those cases not included in the half yearly list of permanent paupers; principles on which the payment should be fixed, *Kay* 5095–5097——The board should never control the discretion of the medical man in ordering meat and wine for individual patients; general instructions only should be given, and medical men are anxious to co-operate with the board, *Kay* 5137–5154——Suggestions for the general provision of medical relief; each parish to bear its own expenses; how cases of casualty may be attended to, *Kay* 5155–5167——Modes of distributing the medical charge in reference to the poor in the workhouse; desire of medical men to attend the workhouse for scientific purposes, *Kay* 5168–5171——The poor were always better attended to if the medical man was also attendant upon the rich in the same neighbourhood, *Toogood* 15964——Advantage to the poor that their medical officer should also attend the rich in the neighbourhood, *Hall* 15979.

See also *Abingdon. Acute Diseases. Amersham. Aylesbury. Banbury. Basford Union*, 5. *Brackley. Bradfield. Bridgwater. British Medical Association. Chigwell.*

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MEDICAL RELIEF—continued.

Chigwell. Competition. Coroners. Dispensaries. Drugs. East Hampstead. Epping. Eton. Faversham. Friendly Societies. Gomersal Township. Hambledon. Hospitals. Leighton Buzzard. Lincoln. Loans. Medical Commissioners. Medical Districts. Medical Officers. Medicines. Medicine Chests. Midwifery Cases. Newbury. Newmarket Union. Ongar. Orders for Medical Relief. Parliamentary Returns. Private Practice. Remuneration. Shipton-on-Stour. Stow Union. Strangers, Introduction of, as Medical Officers. Tenders by Medical Practitioners. Trusses. Vaccination. Weekly Returns. Wallingford. Windsor. Witney. Woodbridge. Workhouse. Wycombe.

Medical Returns to the House of Commons. Explanations of returns to the House of Commons relating to parishes, population, area of medical districts, qualification of medical men, &c., *Farr* 15692–15696——Explanations of returns as to number of sick; average number of cases per annum, *Farr* 15697–15700.

Medicine Chests. Have been established in convenient situations by some of the medical men, *Gulson* 1939, 1940——Convenience to medical men and the poor that there should be deposited in each parish a medicine chest, containing a few of the more ordinary and easily compounded medicines, *Toogood* 15912–15916——From 3 *l.* to 5 *l.* would keep a medicine chest for 500 persons, *Ceely* 15508–15511——Places should be appointed in which medicines could be immediately procured, *Cooper* 16037——Medicine chests, with the usual medicines, should be within reach of every medical officer, *Cooper* 16038——Expediency of having medicine chests deposited in the different parishes; the increased expense would not be at all commensurate with the benefits obtained by the arrangement, *Kay* 16097.

Medicines. The supply of medicines by the guardians, instead of by the surgeons, can only be applied to large towns; it was introduced into Sheffield and Nottingham, *Gulson* 1764–1768——General examination as to whether the state of the drug trade will or will not lead some medical men, under severe competition, to purchase cheap drugs for patients trusted to their charge, *Thomson* 15560–15583. 15587–15590——The supply of medicines should be separated from other charges; it is practised in many large towns, *Ceely* 15505——Witness has heard a wish expressed that the supply of medicines should be separated from advice, but there exist great difficulties in the way of attempting to carry it out, *Kay* 16098——Cost of medicines administered in the Aylesbury dispensary is 6 *s.* to 8 *s.* per case, *Ceely* 15483——Opinion of witness that the cost of medicine for out-door patients and at the hospital, is the same as the cost at dispensaries, as stated by Dr. Bigsby, *Farr* 15800——Prime cost of medicines per case in 22 dispensaries from Dr. Bigsby's pamphlet, 46th *Rep. App. p.* 142.

See also *Bigsby*, Dr. *County Hospitals. Dispensaries. Drugs. Friendly Societies. Gaols (Ireland.) Medicine Chests. Oxenden*, Mr.

Medicines supplied to the Navy. Paper relative to the supply of medicines furnished by the Apothecaries Company, 46th *Rep. App. p.* 145.

MENDICANCY:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Ampthill Union.*
3. *Leicester.*
4. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

1. *Generally.*

Is still prevalent, but has not increased; when a good system of relief is thoroughly organized, it should not be permitted, *Gulson* 1946–1950——The habit of almsgiving must be restrained, by making it known that destitute persons can be relieved at the workhouse, *Gulson* 1951–1955——A person applying for relief at the workhouse is admitted at the discretion of the governor, and treated like the paupers, *Gulson* 1956–1959——Measures proposed for the suppression of vagrancy; system of passes from workhouse to workhouse, *Gulson* 1963–1968——Great care should be taken to separate the vagrants from the inmates, *Gulson* 1974——Calculations have been made to show that the proportion of mendicants in London who deserve relief is only three per cent., *Gulson* 1970——There would be no necessity for begging by men in search of employment, as they would be provided with all necessaries in the workhouses on their road, *Gulson* 1975–1995.

2. *Ampthill Union.*

Is on the increase; benevolent persons say that they give more in charity than they have saved in rates, *Turner* 8584–8589. 8594–8599.

3. *Leicester.*

Begging has been much resorted to, but has been reduced, by the establishment of a providence society, *Rawson* 16498–16501.

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

MENDICANCY——continued.

4. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

Is confined to the roads between Lynn and Bury and Cambridge, and from Yarmouth and Norwich to Ipswich, *Kay* 5055-5057.

See *Bourne Union. Coventry. Reading.*

Merton (*Bermondsey Nursery for Children.*) A young man of 27, formerly a clerk, but incompetent, as schoolmaster, received 25 *l.* per annum; he had the sole charge of 135 children, *Hickson* 13241.

Metropolitan Workhouses. It was customary to allow dissenting paupers to attend their places of worship on Sunday; a clergyman of the established church attended the workhouse, *Mott* 11763——The boards have required certificates from ministers of the chapels, and permitted some of the paupers to attend, *Mott* 11767–11770——Chaplains attend the workhouse; most of the paupers are indifferent to religion, *Mott* 11771–11774——There are few children therein; they are obliged to be sent some miles from town, under certain Acts of Parliament, *Corder* 11891–11913.

See also *Religious Worship.*

Midwifery Cases. Mode of treatment recommended as to midwifery cases; employment of women proposed wherever practicable, *Rumsey* 15039.

Epping Union, Chigwell: Witness has had 10 or 12 cases per annum of midwifery in the workhouse in the last year, *Rowe* 15647——Average charge for attending a midwifery case among the labouring classes, one guinea, *Rowe* 15648——Parish payment formerly 10*s.* 6*d.*, now reduced to 10*s.*, *Rowe* 15651.

Norfolk and Suffolk: Arrangements made for the attendance on the wives of labourers in cases of midwifery, *Kay* 5119–5123.

MIGRATION:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Condition of Migrants.*
3. *Bradford.*
4. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*
5. *Woburn Union.*

1. *Generally.*

Opinion of the Committee that migration should not be compulsory, or be made a condition of relief, *Rep. p.* 15——Should be held out as a boon to those who are deserving; pauperized families, with bad habits, will not derive benefit from the change, *Kay* 4647, 4648——Voluntary migration to the manufacturing districts existed before a migration agent was appointed; the supply could not then be so well regulated by the demand, and much suffering was the result, *Kay* 5000–5004——Boards of guardians ought not to encourage migration until contracts have been obtained by the migration agent; migration has usually been conducted by him, *Kay* 5005–5019——Complaints have been made of the effect of migration on the part of labourers in the manufacturing districts, but the migrants have been received with cordiality, *Kay* 5020, 5021——A portion of the poor of Sheffield and Nottingham have sought work in other districts; effect of their migration upon wages in the places in which they have settled, *Gulson* 842–871——The large migration into Lancashire for the last 40 years has not reduced wages, *Gulson* 877–882.

Answers of chairmen and vice-chairmen of unions to questions respecting migration and emigration, January 1837, 15th *Rep. App. p.* 21.

2. *Condition of Migrants.*

Witness has not seen many persons who have improved their condition by leaving the rural districts, *Turner* 7564——Migration is calculated to produce great suffering on the persons removed, *Turner* 7620–7627——The wages of the migrants are never more than two-thirds of what is earned by the ordinary hands in the neighbourhood; this must have an effect upon those previously employed, *Turner* 7731–7734.

3. *Bradford.*

Condition of persons who have migrated to Bradford from the south of England; many were relieved out of a fund subscribed to provide employment for operatives in distress, *Bull* 6265–6268——There were several distressing cases; some were diseased by a long privation of food; the majority have not derived any benefit from the change of residence, *Bull* 6277–6329——The new factories might have been supplied with hands from the families of the neighbouring manufacturers, who have been superseded by machinery; there was no necessity for a forced migration from the rural districts, *Bull* 6271——Adults coming from the rural districts have found great difficulty in obtaining employment, but the children have easily found it; the parents are frequently dependent upon their children, *Bull* 6678–6683.

MIGRATION—continued.

4. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

Number of families who have migrated from Suffolk; cost of outfit and journey; amount of relief given before and since their migration, *Kay* 4644, 4645——There has lately been little disposition amongst the labourers of Norfolk and Suffolk to migrate; they have more permanent employment, *Kay* 4650-4661.

5. *Woburn Union.*

Was much encouraged by the board, but several families returned in great distress on the suspension of work, and migration has since been discouraged, *Pearse* 10975–10982. 11016–11020——Cases of Samuel Chance and Mrs. Odell, *Pearse* 10983–11008——All those families who migrated, except those who went of their own accord, entered into engagements through the migration agent, *Pearse* 11020–11039——No families were forced to migrate against their inclination, or in ignorance of the nature of the engagements made for them; they were induced to go by the prospect of better wages, *Pearse* 12891–12928. 13045, 13046——No threats were made of withholding relief if persons refused to migrate, *Pearse* 12946–12952——The fact of persons remaining while the board were encouraging migration, would have been no ground for denying relief; case of John Chandler, *Pearse* 12994 ——In several instances the board have made remittances to migrants, and communications were kept up with them, *Pearse* 12998. 13002–13004 ——The encouragement offered to widows to migrate with their families was given with the view of providing for them properly; it was an experiment only, and has not succeeded, *Pearse* 13115–13128——Letter from Mr. Muggeridge to the chairman concerning migration from the Woburn Union, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 54.

Milk of Sulphur. Extent to which this drug is usually adulterated by drug-grinders, *Thomson* 15542.

Milbrook, Bedfordshire. Extract from letters of farmers on the rate of wages in that parish in 1834, 1835 and 1836; price of task-work, &c., *Overman* 11409——Return from the rector of the number of marriages solemnized by agricultural labourers from 1 January 1832 to 31 December 1837, *Overman* 11651——Comparative statement of the condition of six labourers (three in constant work, and three not in constant work) in 1834 and 1837, 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Mildenhall Union. Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse Dec. 1837, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 33——Table of the rate of wages and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 36——Tables of mortality in the workhouse at different periods, *ib. pp.* 42–45.

Minster (*Isle of Thanet Union*) *Workhouse.* In 1836 a schoolmaster had been engaged, at a salary of 20*l.* per annum; the schoolmistress was a respectable young woman, but appeared to teach nothing but the catechism, *Hickson* 13241.

Minto, William. Witness's statement concerning the verdict of the jury at the inquest on the body of W. Minto, who committed suicide, as given in the newspapers without the evidence; how far he was justified in making them, *Bull* 6465–6514.

Mirfield Parish. Reasons for expecting the new Poor Law would work beneficially there, *Ingham* 14283–14289.

Money, John. Committed to Bedford gaol for gathering dead wood in the Ring plantation belonging to Lord Holland, *Turner* 8045–8052——Return of depositions and commitment of, for poaching, 1 January 1838, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 50, 51——Memoranda of convictions of J. Money, 1833–1838, *ib. p.* 51.

See also *Wood-stealing.*

Morrison, John, of Maulden. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Mortality in Workhouses. Reasons for expecting a greater mortality in workhouses than exists in the general population of the country; number of aged and infirm, sick, children, &c., *Kay* 4604——Tables of mortality in the workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk, 14th *Rep. App. pp.* 42–45——Tables showing the ages of the inmates of workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk who have died; classes to which they belonged, &c., for the three last quarters of 1837, 17th *Rep. App. p.* 31.

Mossman, John, of Maulden. Lost a place by bad conduct; nature of his employment, *Overman* 14590–14594.

Mott, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Assistant Poor Law Commissioner since Nov. 1834, 11754, 11755——In the last two years has been employed in the metropolitan districts, 11756, 11757——Has been connected with the management of the poor in the metropolis, Gosport and other places for 15 years, 11758–11762——It was customary to

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Mott, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

allow dissenting paupers to attend their places of worship on Sunday; a clergyman of the Established Church attended the workhouse, 11763——The Commissioners have not adhered strictly to the rule, forbidding paupers to leave the workhouse on Sunday, 11764–11766——The London boards have required certificates from ministers of the chapels, and permitted some of the paupers to attend, 11767–11770——Chaplains attend the workhouse, and most of the paupers are indifferent to religion, 11771–11774——There are very few Roman Catholics; in Newington workhouse they were only one per cent., 11775, 11776——Religious instruction provided in that workhouse, 11777–11780——In the old workhouses children were much neglected in their moral and religious instruction, 11781, 11782——Roman Catholics have been permitted to attend their own places of worship both under the old and new law, 11783–11786——Children are not obliged to be brought up in the religion of the Established Church, nor are adults compelled to attend church worship, 11787–11797——Doubtful expediency of permitting the paupers, as a body, to attend places of worship, 11798–11800——A general law should be made to enable them to do so, subject to the regulations of Boards of Guardians, 11801–11812.

Duties of chaplains, 11813–11815——They take no part in the education of the children, 11816——The master of the workhouse reads prayers of the Established Church morning and evening, which dissenters are not required to attend, 11817–11823——There have been no deviations from the intentions of the Commissioners in this respect, 11824, 11825——Ministers are never refused access to paupers; applications are not numerous, 11826–11829——Persons might be allowed to attend places of worship on the written request of the minister, and certificate that they had attended, 11830–11836——Notices should be hung up in different parts of the workhouse, stating that dissenters are not required to attend the worship of the Established Church, 11837-11839——The numbers attending places of worship would not be so great as to render it difficult to grant certificates, 11840——In Lancashire, where there are many Roman Catholics, they might go in a body, 11841——A person would not be bound by his declaration of his religious persuasion; if a certificate were required of attendance, any change of religion would be of little importance, 11842–11845.

[Second Examination.]—Agrees with Mr. Corder as to the inconvenience of certain local Acts of Parliament, 12003——Act in force in Bermondsey, under which the church is supported out of the poor-rate, 12003——The trustees have now but little to do, as their duties are transferred to the guardians, 12003, 12004——Insufficient audit of their accounts; expense of two sets of officers, 12005–12007——Delays that have arisen in the collection of rates, 12008, 12009——Necessity of the guardians borrowing money on their own personal security; they have no means of paying interest, 12009, 12010——Inconveniences arising therefrom, 12011——If these local Acts are not repealed, the money for the relief of the poor should be under the control of the Board of Guardians, 12012–12017——The majority of the parishioners would wish to be under the guardians, 12018——In Shoreditch there are 120 trustees whose only duties, except the relief of the poor, is to keep the churchyard in repair, 12019, 12020.

In no instance has a dietary been established insufficient for health, 12021–12023——The Poor Law Commissioners have listened to any suggestions of the guardians on the subject, 12024, 12025——A fair representation cannot be obtained without dividing town parishes into wards, 12026——Practice in the parish of Lambeth, 12027–12030——The city of London has 100 elected guardians, 12029, 12031——The division of parishes into wards would give great satisfaction, 12030——In London several parishes should be consolidated for the election of one guardian, 12032——Inconvenience arising from the inability of Commissioners to alter the number of guardians; case of the parish of Aldersgate, 12033–12035——If proxies are used in voting, they should be given every year, 12035–12037——No great advantage has resulted from voting, by proxy, 12038, 12039——Proxies should not be transferred by the immediate agent of the owner, 12040–12043——Limitation of the number of *ex-officio* guardians in the London Unions proposed; number in the Edmonton Union, 12044–12046.

Mowing, Ampthill Union. Prices of task-work for mowing, by the acre, in the Ampthill Union in 1834 and 1837, *Turner* 7899, 7900——The increased exertions of mowing render more sustenance necessary in proportion to the increased wages, *Crabtree* 8708–8712——Price paid for mowing per acre, *Pearse* 9925——Earnings of labourers; price, per acre in Westoning; quantity that could be mowed in a day, *Pearse* 12744–12752.

Muggeridge, Mr. His letter to the chairman concerning migration from the Woburn Union, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 54.

Musgrave, Henry Musgrave. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Chairman of the Ampthill Union since its formation, 5469–5471——Population, acreage and number of parishes, 5472–5474——Shitlington, the most distant parish, is seven miles from the workhouse, 5475–5477——Average expenditure for three years, before and since the formation of the union, 5478–5481.

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Musgrave. Henry Musgrave. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

[Second Examination.]—Reads a letter from his father, contradicting a statement of Mr. Turner, that several married men were employed by him at a shilling a day, 11272——Circumstances of William Weston, a labourer, included in Mr. Turner's tables, 11272.

Mr. Musgrave, senior. The information contained in this letter was obtained from his son, 11274–11280.

Mr. Musgrave, junior. Has acted as a magistrate for the county of Bedford six or seven years, 11281–11283——He has committed men to the house of correction for stealing wood under Peel's Act; inaccuracy of Mr. Turner's description of the offence for which they were committed, 11284–11286——There are not so many offences of this nature as there were two years since in the Ampthill Union, 11287, 11288——Return from the keeper of the new gaol at Bedford of commitments and convictions, 1832–1838, 11289–11294——Persons who break trees and damage fences are generally men of bad character, who have come out of prison, and sell the wood stolen for beer, 11295.

Suggestions for the improvement of the bastardy law; a man should be fined, and the penalty be applied to the poor-rate, when a woman can procure a certificate of good character previous to her seduction, 11298–11307——Three magistrates should adjudicate, who would be able to form an opinion of her case from her own evidence and her general character, 11308–11311——The present protection of men from all liability to provide for their children has been an encouragement to bastardy, 11312——The corroborative evidence which is now required to be given before the quarter sessions should be taken by magistrates at petty sessions, to prevent exposure in a public court, 11313, 11314.

[Third Examination.]—A guardian of the Ampthill Union; resides at Shitlington; resigned the office of chairman; reason given, 13602–13607——No guardians were elected either for Shitlington or Westoning at the late election, 13608–13610——Petition presented by Lord Charles Russell on the 7th of March, 13621——Origin and vindication of the petition; detail of the grievances complained of; references to newspapers, and names of individuals connected with its contents, 13621–13720——It is the opinion of the eighteen guardians who signed the petition, that the residence of Messrs. Crabtree and Turner at Ampthill has produced a marked change for the worse in the opinions, feelings and conduct of the labouring class, 13722–13726.

[Fourth Examination.]—The morals of the working classes are improved, and their incomes are larger than before the new law, 13738–13742. 13846——Earnings of George Hare during the year 1837, 13742——Defects of the old system, 13771–13794——The adequate test which was wanted under the old system is now supplied, 13776. 13795–13797——Consequences of sending unemployed labourers to the parish gravel-pit, 13805–13840——The aged and infirm are better attended to, 13847–13851——Particulars respecting the mob at Ampthill in January 1831, 13852–13915. 13922–13955——Indoor relief is often preferred to out-door relief, 13918–13920——The riot in Ampthill in 1835, 13956–13980. 13998–14003.

On the erection of the union workhouse at Ampthill, relief was withdrawn from able-bodied persons, and the workhouse offered them, 13981, 13982——Until that time the poor were relieved at their own homes; the old workhouses not being large enough to receive them, 13983–13990——Whether the crimes of suicide and infanticide have increased in Bedfordshire since the change of the law, 14009–14022——Wood-stealing has increased; this is attributable to the numerous beer-houses, 14023, 14024——Crime generally has decreased 27 per cent., 14025——Whether sheep-stealing has increased, 14028–14035. 14040–14045——There is a considerable decrease in poaching, 14036, 14037——Return of prisoners committed to the county gaol from the different parishes in the Ampthill Union, 14046–14050——In some cases, instead of offering the workhouse to a labouring man with a family, a loan is granted to be repaid by instalments, 14058–14061——The workhouse is offered to those who state their wages to be insufficient, 14067–14071——Wages have improved since the alteration of the law. 14081, 14082. 14787——In cases of illness, families are relieved at home, 14083–14085.

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National School. See *Westminster Central National School.*

Negus, Mr. *of Flitwick* Extract of a letter from him, stating the amount of wages paid by him, 1834–1837, *Overman* 11409.

Newbury Union. Extent of union; greatest distance of patients from medical aid; number of parishes; amount of population, *Rumsey* 14763——Reductions which have taken place in the number of medical officers in this union, *Rumsey* 14783——Witness believes that guardians have introduced strangers into this union, under powers of Poor Law Act, as medical practitioners, *Rumsey* 14824.

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Newington Workhouse. The number of Roman Catholics were only one per cent. upon the paupers, *Mott* 11775, 11776——Religious instruction provided in that workhouse, *Mott* 11777–11780.

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Newmarket Union. Satisfactory arrangements for medical relief; the medical officers complain of inadequate remuneration, but the poor were never so well attended to before, *Power* 4223.

Newport Pagnell. In this district medical men have been allowed to take separate parishes without any reference to districts, *Rumsey* 14793, 14794.

Nield, James, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above account, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement of his earnings in 1837 as given by himself; he is a hay-binder, and generally a useful man; he earns considerable sums, a great deal of which he spends at the ale-house; he has two children, but no wife, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12345–12352——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Nitrate of Silver. Used extensively by surgeons; is adulterated by drug-grinders with nitrate of lead to a very great extent, *Thomson* 15542.

Nixon, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been a magistrate in the county of Nottingham, for eleven or twelve years, and given much attention to the Poor Law, 16103–16105——System generally adopted previous to the introduction of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 16106——Mode of electing visitors, 16107–16110——System of relief adopted by the Basford incorporation, 16111–16114. 16117, 16118——The guardians of the parishes were principally the most respectable farmers, 16115——State of the rates in the incorporation of Basford, in the years 1816 and 1836, 16119, 16120——Causes which led the board at Basford to leave the incorporation, and join the union, 16125, 16126——Resolutions drawn up by the guardians on that occasion, 16127.

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Whether the system of relief acted upon in the Gilbert Union should not be generally adopted; viz. that of giving the old and infirm money to the amount of what they would cost in the house, 16197–16202. 16216–16219——Remarks upon the 27th section of the Poor Law Act, 16203–16213——Case of Lees, the idiot pauper, the discussion of which led to the resignation of witness, 16220–16224——In agricultural districts the refusal of out-door relief alarms the farmer, who would rather give a labourer good wages, than pay 18*s.* 6*d.* a week, perhaps, for maintaining him and his family in the house, 16225–16228——The peremptory rule, however, should be exercised with discretion, and by the whole board; the exceptions it should authorize, 16230–16268——Guardians not being allowed the exercise of this discretion, are disheartened, and absent themselves from the board; out of 47, perhaps 7 only will meet, 16268–16276——There was no necessity for the new law in the Basford district, 16277–16280——The machinery of the new law is more expensive than that of the old incorporations; expenses compared, 16280–16290.

The increase of in-door relief is threefold; putting a man into the workhouse makes him ever afterwards reckless of his character, 16290–16292——A man may be saved from hopeless and lasting poverty, by timely out-door relief; a man will not go into the house as long as he has any goods to sell, 16292–16299——The order issued by the Basford board respecting the relief to be given in cases of emergency, created a most hostile sensation, and was never acted upon, 16301–16303——Deficiency of relieving officers in the Basford Union; the distance each would have to go if all the villages were visited, would be 37 miles a-day, 16304–16310——Question as to the distance medical officers should reside from the population; number required for the Basford Union, 16312–16317——The parishes of the Gilbert Incorporations found their own medical men, which is perhaps the best plan, 16318——Every parish ought to have a paid officer, an assistant overseer, to relieve the overseers, 16319–16322.

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Whether it would not be more convenient to obtain the proof of chargeability from the relieving officer than from the overseer, 16322–16324——Whether the auditors of unions occasion inconvenience, by disallowing some of the items in the overseer's accounts, 16325——Amendments of the Poor Law suggested, relative to the discretionary power of guardians, and the bastardy clauses, 16326–16329——Objection to the clause in the Gilbert Act, obliging the guardian of the parish to provide work for a man near his own residence, 16330–16335——With respect to medical relief, the great evil is the size of the districts; recommendations obviating the difficulty, 16336——Further discussion of Mr. Gulson's evidence respecting the retirement of the guardians, and of his answer to question 1644, 16340——Copy of Colonel Coape's letter to the board of the Basford Union, tendering his resignation of the vice-presidency, 16340——Mr. Nixon's letter, assigning reasons for retiring, 16340——Medical districts of the Basford Union, 16340.

Non-resident Poor. Difficulties arising from paupers in the manufacturing districts residing out of the townships in which they are settled, *Power* 2903, 2904——Impositions discovered by the assistant overseer of the Settle Union, *Power* 3012——A system of accounting should be established between the several unions, and the poor relieved by the relieving officer of the union in which they reside, *Power* 3677–3682——Danger of relief being given when not required, if the poor belong to a different parish than that by which relief is administered, *Power* 3683, 3684——The whole inconvenience arises out of the law of settlement; hardship of compelling parishes to relieve persons at a distance, from whose labour they derive no benefit, *Power* 3699–3701——Means of inquiring into their circumstances; greater facilities afforded by the new law, *Power* 3705–3707.

See also *Hinckley Union.*

Norfolk and Suffolk. Population of all the unions in operation; number of boys and girls of different ages maintained and educated in the workhouses, *Kay* 4390–4392.

See also *Agriculture. Aged and Infirm*, 4. *Bastardy*, II. 4. *Children. Labourers* I. 4. *Migration*, 4. *Out-door Relief*, 10. *Religious Worship*, 5. *Wages*, 7.

Norris, Rev. *Edmund.* See *Covent Garden Workhouse.*

Norwich. See *Mendicancy.*

Norwood (*Establishment for Pauper Children.*) Sixty pounds per annum is paid to a schoolmaster and mistress educated at Borough-road school, and 25*l.* to an infant schoolmistress, *Hickson* 13241.

North Leeck Union. The guardians have taken steps for the appointment of a chaplain, but have not yet (Feb. 23) succeeded, *Hall* 2532.

Nottingham County. Number and names of unions into which the county has been divided; whether manufacturing or agricultural, *Gulson* 1603, 1604——Population of the parish of St. Mary; the administration of the poor law was good before the union, and has been little altered since, *Gulson* 20, 21——The old governing body was an open vestry, appointing overseers, *Gulson* 22–26——In the absence of any commercial distress, no out-door relief was given, *Gulson* 27, 28——Size, accommodation, classification, &c. of the workhouse, *Gulson* 29–36——The market-place was paved by men employed at task-work during a state of great pressure, *Gulson* 62–64.

Extravagance in the management of St. Nicholas workhouse; good wholesome food was given to the pigs, *Gulson* 222–231——In the other parishes the administration was bad; the management was by open vestry, *Gulson* 217–221——The population consists principally of tradesmen; a smaller proportion of poor, *Gulson* 232–235——System generally adopted previous to the introduction of the Poor Law Amendment Act, *Nixon* 16106.

Nottingham Union. Formed in July 1836, *Gulson* 12——The population entirely manufacturing; cotton, hosiery and lace the principal manufactures, *Gulson* 15–19——Great commercial difficulty arose in December 1836; measures taken for the relief of the poor; increased workhouse accommodation and out-door task-work provided, *Gulson* 37–41——Out-door relief first given September 1837; number then in the workhouse, and employed by the union, *Gulson* 42–48——Mode in which wages were paid for task-work according to the necessities of each man; they were less than the wages of independent labourers, *Gulson* 51–61. 74–79——If the workhouse would hold all the unemployed, they would be received, although at a cost of 2*s.* 6*d.* a-head, while task-work costs 1*s.* 6*d.* only, because the restraint of the workhouse would induce them to seek work elsewhere, *Gulson* 205–208.

Number of men receiving out-door task-work in different weeks; number of their families; amount paid, *Gulson* 171–181——They are employed in digging out a great road; hours of labour; mode of work, and payment, &c., *Gulson* 212–216——The workhouse being nearly full at Nottingham, it was thought better to apply the task-work test than to fill the workhouse entirely, *Gulson* 371–374——Rate of payment to men employed

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on task-work under the subscription, and by the parish, *Gulson* 546-554——The earnings of the artificers before the distress were more than sufficient for their maintenance; many subscribed to benefit societies, and some kept four-wheeled carriages, *Gulson* 555-560——Return delivered in of the names, &c. of families employed on parochial task-work, and examination respecting the same, *Gulson* 600-613——The work would never have been undertaken but for the sake of finding employment for those receiving relief, *Gulson* 622-627——Further evidence respecting the task-work; the payment was the same as to independent labourers, but the lacemakers, &c., could not earn so much, not being used to the work, *Gulson* 1263-1272.

During the last twelve months above 2,000 persons have passed through the workhouse; about 1,200 of these are now in re-possession of their houses and goods, *Gulson* 16386, 16387.

See also *Frame-work Knitters. Labour Test. Lacemakers. Medicines. Out-door Relief. Smiths, &c.*

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Odell, James, of Flitwick. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837, earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Odell, John, of Cranfield. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 24.

Odell, John, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp* 44, 45——This man belongs to the Woburn Union, from which he received 6*s.* per week; he has considerable business as a mole and rat catcher; he keeps six dogs, besides ferrets; his habits are very irregular; has a lodger who pays 20*s.* a-year, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12340-12344; 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

Odell, Robert, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement of the earnings of himself and family in 1837, as given by himself; his employment varies, sometimes on the railroad, at other times jobbing about; the scale was applied to ascertain the earnings of the wife and family, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12305-12313——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

Odell, Samuel. Observations of the Committee on the case of his wife, *Rep. p.* 15——His age, character, family and circumstances; he applied for relief immediately after the confinement of his wife, and was desired to come into the workhouse with her, *Turner* 8284-8287——The board did not propose to remove his wife into the workhouse; on the contrary, they ordered her to be relieved at home, provided he came into the house, *Marshall* 9777-9789——He gathers rushes, for the purpose of rush candles, and makes as much money during the rush season as some people make in the whole year, *Marshall* 9851——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52——Observation on the earnings of his family, *Marshall* 9327——Letter from Messrs. Bridgett & Co., of Derby, to the relieving officer of the Woburn Union, as to wages of his wife, her character and condition, *Pearse* 13096-13100.

Odell, Thomas, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement of this man's earnings in 1837, as given by himself; outgoings, &c.; his wife is employed solely with her children; there are four, the eldest only seven years old, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12331-12339——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

Odell, William. A labourer at Westoning (Ampthill Union); his age; number of children, wages, rent, earnings of the family at harvest, and by straw-plaiting or lace-making, *Turner* 6081-6105, 6168-6192——Calculations, in detail, of his income and expenditure in 1834 and 1837, *Turner* 6751-6778——Tabular statement of his earnings in 1834, 23d *Rep., App. p.* 34——Earnings of himself, his wife and family, as stated by his wife and his employer; he said himself he was not in distress, *Marshall* and *Pearse* 9866-9882——Further evidence thereon, *Pearse* 10791-10810. 10898-10910. 10916-10933; *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12251-12267——Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish,

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parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

Oldham. Decided hostility of the rate-payers to the Poor Law Act; the union has been declared, but no board has ever met for business, and the law is administered upon the old system, *Power* 2960–2962——Prejudice excited against the Poor Law Act by incorrect statements; no guardian was elected by any township, *Power* 3165.

Oldham Union. Expenditure for three years, from the Parliamentary Returns; population, &c., *Power* 3351–3354——The expenditure, in proportion to the population, is less than in any other union in England; advantage that would be derived from the Poor Law Act without reference to expenditure, *Power* 3952–3959.

Oldham Workhouse. A rule exists for separating the sexes in the lodging rooms, but neither the buildings nor the yards are calculated to effect that object, *Power* 3265.

Ongar Union. Reductions which have taken place in the number of medical officers in this union, *Rumsey* 14783——Witness believes strangers have been introduced under Poor Law Act as medical practitioners into this union, *Rumsey* 14824.

Operatives. Important consequences of abolishing the allowance system to the operatives, *Power* 3284–3287. 3289–3292.

Opium. An indispensable remedy in medicine; often adulterated with senna, and sometimes contains from 30 to 60 per cent. of water, *Thomson* 15542.

Orders of Removal. Recommendation of the Committee thereupon, *Rep. p.* 19——Expediency of giving notices of orders of removal to the parish in which the pauper has a settlement, *Corder* 11974–11991.

Omskirk Union. See *Guardians.*

Ormskirk Workhouse. Had a perfect separation of the sexes before the formation of the union, *Power* 2879.

Orphans. See *Colonial Apprenticeship.*

Orsett Union. Expenditure for the relief and maintenance of the poor in each quarter of the year ended 25th December 1837, 11th *Rep. App. p.* 19.

Out-door Relief:

1. *Generally: Expediency of enforcing the peremptory Rule.*
2. *Suggestions relative thereto.*
3. *Advantages of giving Relief in kind.*
4. *Ampthill Union.*
5. *Camberwell.*
6. *Lambeth.*
7. *Lancashire and West Riding of York.*
8. *Leicester.*
9. *Manufacturing Districts generally.*
10. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*
11. *Nottingham Union.*

1. *Generally: Expediency of enforcing the peremptory Rule.*

Observations of the Committee on the rule prohibiting out-door relief to the able-bodied, with summary of evidence relative thereto, and Resolution, *Rep. pp.* 27–32——Is refused to the able-bodied even during a frost, although in the workhouse they cost more than at home; this system causes providence, *Gulson* 297–307——Witness has not known cases of extreme pressure, by reason of the rule, *Gulson* 310, 311——Necessity of making the parish the hardest task-master and worst pay-master; the smaller rate-payers must be reduced to pauperism if any other principle be adopted, *Gulson* 532——Any relaxation of the prohibitory rule would lead to the allowance system, *Overman* 11598, 11599——The money labourers out of employ formerly received, was an inducement to neglect work, *Overman* 14219.

The refusal of out-door relief to the able-bodied is beneficial both to them and to the parish; it induces providence, and avoids greater evils, by inflicting the less, *Gulson* 736–743——In districts not usually pauperized, the same rule should be applied, or a premium will be given for improvidence, *Gulson* 744–752——The peremptory rule forbidding out-door relief in any case, has been sent to many of the unions, *Marshall* 13482——Relief was not withheld from the able-bodied until 12 months after the formation of unions, except in Nottingham, *Gulson* 768–773——The prohibitory rule, when once introduced into unions, has never been relaxed, *Hall* 2782, 2783——Statements have been made that the effect of the new law would be the universal refusal of out-door relief, which were incorrect, *Power* 3166–3168—— In no instance has the prohibitory rule been enforced at the first formation of the union, *Power* 3393——The rule prohibiting out-door relief is

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Out-door Relief—1. *Generally: Expediency of enforcing the peremptory Rule*—cont^{d}.

not in force in the south of England; relief is given in return for work, *Power* 3407–3409——Relief in aid of wages is given less frequently, and has been entirely suppressed, in some unions, *Power* 3411-3413——The number of paupers receiving out-door relief exceeds the number in the workhouse universally throughout England, *Power* 3532–3534.

The intention of the Legislature may be collected from the Poor Law Act to have been, that out-door relief should at some time or other be taken from all the able-bodied, *Power* 3774——The peremptory rule alarms the farmer; he would rather give a labourer high wages than maintain his family in the workhouse, *Nixon* 16225–16227—— Individual guardians complain that they have not discretionary power of granting out-door relief, *Hall* 2489–2496——Unions in which guardians have complained, Hungerford, Abingdon, Witney, Chipping Norton and Bicester, *Hall* 2574–2585.

Exceptions to which the peremptory rule should be subjected, *Nixon* 16230–16268——Difficulties in an attempt to distinguish between the poor who had families at the passing of the Act, *Gulson* 1013–1021——The rule cannot be relaxed in favour of men with large families without great injury, *Gulson* 2049–2053——Advantages of timely out-door relief, *Nixon* 16292——Men of good character should receive out-door relief at the discretion of guardians, *Rawson* 16458–16471——Legislative enactments at different periods, since the Act of Elizabeth, respecting out-door relief, *Rawson* 16754–16761——The Act of Elizabeth requires that persons not having work should be set to work by the parish, and not that they should be relieved while working for other parties, *Hall* 2586–2589——Return of sums expended in out-door relief in unions in which workhouses have been established two years and upwards, 23d *Rep., App. p.* 26.

2. *Suggestions relative thereto.*

The men should be taken into the workhouse, to prevent them from being employed at lower wages, and their families left out, to take charge of the cottage, and find work for them, *Adey* 5605–5607——The families must be supplied with bread, and the men seldom remain long in the workhouse; the principle has been adopted in many unions, *Adey* 5608–5616——Objections to the plan of taking a man into the workhouse when out of employment, and leaving his family to find work for him, *Bull* 6234.

3. *Advantages of giving Relief in kind.*

In all cases, when able-bodied men with families require relief, a great part should be given in kind, *Hall* 2156, 2157——Out-door relief in money encourages improvidence and idle habits, *Power* 3146.

In Blackburn: The change from money to provisions was received with satisfaction by the families, *Power* 3515——Much benefit would result from the system of relieving with provisions, *Johnson* 4112–4114.

In Norfolk and Suffolk: Relief is given in kind to the able-bodied, but money is more commonly given to the aged and sick, unless they desire relief in kind, *Kay* 5028, 5029——The plan of sending the baker's cart round to the several parishes is preferable to having stations, *Kay* 5030, 5031.

4. *Ampthill Union.*

Relief is not given to able-bodied men with sick wives and children, *Turner* 5928–5933——It is the general practice to deny all relief to the able-bodied out of the workhouse, *Crabtree* 8895——Is sometimes refused to the wife, unless the husband, being of bad character, enters the workhouse, *Marshall* 9799–9803——A man is sometimes taken into the house, and his family relieved at home, to avoid the necessity of breaking up his establishment, *Marshall* 9832–9835——A man incapacitated from working, by sickness, would receive out-door relief to maintain his family, *Marshall* 9815.

Mode of administering it, both in money and bread, *Marshall* 10021–10027——The baker goes round to each parish at a fixed time, *Marshall* 10164–10167——Deficiency of wages is not received as a sufficient reason for seeking relief, *Marshall* 13463; *Musgrave* 14067–14071——An able-bodied man receives no out-door relief, *Marshall* 13463——The amount of relief is varied according to the changing circumstances of the recipient, *Marshall* 13576–13578.

5. *Camberwell.*

The union gives in or out-door relief at discretion, and finds the practice very salutary, *Storie* 13292——The relieving overseer has power to order immediate relief, reporting the circumstance afterwards to the board, *Storie* 13309–13310——The out-door poor are not better paid than formerly, but they are now constantly under the eye of the relieving officer, *Storie* 13317, 13318.

6. *Lambeth.*

The guardians of Lambeth give relief in or out of the workhouse, according to the circumstances of the applicants, *Shadbolt* 13259–13262——Temporary relief is always afforded

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Out-door Relief—6. *Lambeth*—continued.

afforded to paupers entitled to it; the orders are afterwards revised, but always for short periods, *Shadbolt* 13263–13265.

7. *Lancashire and West Riding of York.*

Several abuses connected with out-door relief will be gradually suppressed by the introduction of the new law into the manufacturing townships, *Power* 2886——The guardians, in many instances, have adopted the system of giving relief in kind, *Power* 2908–2910——They discourage applications for casual relief, by offering the workhouse, *Power* 2910——In most of the townships strict inquiries were made as to the condition of paupers, before the Poor Law Act, and now this strictness is universal, *Power* 3157–3160——Is given to the able-bodied, in some cases, in all the unions, *Power* 3521–3531.

8. *Leicester.*

From the general rate of wages, operatives, with large families require relief, but do not desire to be maintained by the parish, *Rawson* 16811–16816.

9. *Manufacturing Districts generally.*

On the recommendation of the guardians in any manufacturing district, the Commissioners would at once relax the prohibitory rule; they did so at Nottingham, *Gulson* 780, 781——There is less recourse to parochial aid, in times of great pressure, in the manufacturing districts than in rural districts, under a less degree of pressure, *Kay* 4713–4716——In manufacturing districts it would not be expedient to do away altogether with out-door relief, *Ingham* 14290–14294——The peremptory rule is left to the discretion of guardians, *Ingham* 14297.

10. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

Out-door allowances to large families were suffered to continue on the first formation of the unions, *Kay* 4396——Gradual abolition of the system; classes of labourers to which the workhouse system was successively applied, *Kay* 4518–4520——The majority of the intelligent occupiers wish the allowance to large families and the system of taking children into the workhouse should cease, *Kay* 4522——Without the interference of the Poor Law Commissioners, nearly all the unions withheld out-door relief from the able-bodied during the snow, *Kay* 4544–4546. 4556–4562——In all cases where the head of a family is ill, he is relieved, if the board consider him in indigent circumstances; relief is also given when the families are ill, *Kay* 4551, 4552——Opinions of boards of guardians, in Norfolk and Suffolk, concerning the effects of refusing out-door relief to the able-bodied, *Kay* 4662–4668——The guardians generally exercise their discretion with mildness to the poor, *Kay* 5058–5063.

11. *Nottingham Union.*

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2. *Its unpopularity.*

1. *Generally: misconceptions concerning its Character.*

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16675-16681——Increase of the population; advantage derived by the neighbouring farmers, 16682-16685——If the new Poor Law reduce the wages of manufacturers, the farmers will suffer, 16686-16689——The law cannot be fully carried out in Leicester, 16690-16693——Poor-rates in Hinckley, Loughborough and other parishes before the Poor Law Act, 16694-16708——The statute of Elizabeth was quite sufficient, if properly carried out, 16709, 16710——The manufacturing population in the villages near Leicester has not increased, 16712, 16713——In times of extreme destitution it would be impossible to carry the Poor Law into effect in Leicester, 16714——The old and new Poor Laws compared in certain particulars, 16715-16727——Mismanagement in one parish in Leicester, under a select vestry, 16728-16733.

Examination as to the increase of crime in Leicester; whether the establishment of a new police has increased the detections, 16734-16749. 16771-16776——Enactments at different periods respecting out-door relief, 16754-16761——Obstacles to the enforcement of the law in Leicester and Nottingham, 16750-16753. 16762-16770——Stocking-makers do not possess frames of their own so much as formerly; disadvantage in having them when employment is scarce, 16777-16786——The employment of frame-work knitters by parishes overstocked the market, and reduced wages, 16787-16791——Difficulty of finding employment for them, unconnected with their trade, 16792-16797——The Poor Law Act has not reduced the rates in Leicester, 16798-16810——From the general rate of wages, operatives with large families require relief, but do not desire to be maintained by the parish, 16811-16816.

[Second Examination.]—Persons in Leicester have been begging for coffins, which had been refused by the overseer, 17112-17116.

Reading. Number of vagrants relieved before and since the union; the stricter system now pursued has greatly reduced them, *Gulson* 1963, 1964.

Records of general Science. Nature of this work; edited by witness and his uncle, *Thomson* 15531.

Redbornstoke Hundred (*Bedfordshire.*) Extracts from petition, presented in 1829, showing the condition and conduct of the labourers; the state of pauperism and crime, &c., *Turner* 6106-6117.

Redman, William. A labourer of Ampthill parish, with a wife and three children; states that he has had only one day's work in the week since the harvest, *Turner* 8026-8028——He is a man who is very seldom in constant work; he goes jobbing about; he is an idle man, *Marshall* 9762-9765.

Reed, a labourer, living at Ridgmont, in the employ of the Duke of Bedford. His wages, and the number and earnings of his family; his dinner, on one occasion, found to consist of salt and water only, *Crabtree* 8770. 87974-8819. 8829-8835——His wages were so low, that he was obliged to be occasionally without food, *Crabtree* 8836-8838——Was employed by witness for three years, chiefly at task-work; average wages, during that time, from 10*s.* to 13*s.* a-week, *Bennett* 9532-9543——Quantity of land held by him; rent paid and, value of the crop; average earnings of himself, his wife and children, *Bennett* 9549-9577.

Reed, Michael, of Lidlington. How employed; his earnings, *Overman* 14648-14653——Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family. &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 24.

Registration Act. Proceedings with reference to the introduction of the machinery of the Registration Act into the manufacturing districts, at the same time as the Poor Law Unions, *Power* 2846, 2847——It was known that the unions were formed for the Poor Law, and not as registration districts; some persons being favourable to the Registration Act, may have been induced not to oppose the formation of unions, *Power* 2963-2969——The expenses of registration are included in the union expenses, as the Registration Act directs the payment by the union, but they are distinguished from the expense of the poor, *Power* 3026-3032.

Reid, Henry, a labourer of Ampthill parish, with a young family. States that he has had only one day's work in the week since the harvest, *Turner* 8029-8032——He is a man that people will not employ if they can avoid it; his wife earns a good deal of money at charing and washing, *Marshall* 9766-9772.

Relief. Destitution, and not a former contribution to the rates, entitles a man to relief, *Gulson* 833.

See also *Aged and Infirm. Out-door Relief, &c.*

Relief in Kind. See *Out-door Relief.*

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Relieving Officers:

1. *Their Duties generally.*
2. *Size of their Districts.*

1. *Their Duties generally.*

Applications for relief are made to the board through the relieving officer, who makes a fair representation of the cases, *Gulson* 114–123——His advice to the board is generally adopted, *Gulson* 127–129——He may give relief before the meeting of the guardians, and report it for their confirmation; and if he refuse relief, the application must be reported, and the reasons for refusing it explained, *Gulson* 182–189——Mode in which his visits to different parishes are regulated, *Gulson* 1167–1172——Security for receiving correct reports from the relieving officer; he has no motive for falsehood, and would be dismissed on complaint, *Gulson* 1157–1166. 1174——Impudence on the part of the pauper might induce him not to make so favourable a report as he would have made, *Gulson* 1173——It is not necessary that he should be met by the overseers and churchwardens of each parish; they would not attend; they may meet him if they please, *Gulson* 1174–1177.

Should collect the rates, instead of the overseer; other duties, which might be advantageously performed by him, *Gulson* 2021–2027——Inquiries into the circumstances of applicants for relief are likely to be made better by a relieving officer than by an overseer, *Johnson* 4100–4102——These inquiries are beneficial to the poor; justice is done to the deserving, and habits of intemperance are checked, *Johnson* 4103–4105——Should visit each parish two or three times a-week, and go to the houses of the poor; a circular has been issued to the guardians in Norfolk and Suffolk, urging more frequent visits, *Kay* 5022–5045——In cases of sudden and urgent necessity he is required to give temporary relief before the meeting of the board, *Turner* 6980——Character of persons recommended by the Poor Law Commissioners to be selected as relieving officers, *Turner* 6994–6999. 7036–7039——Whether it would not be more convenient to obtain the proof of chargeability from the relieving officer than from the overseer, *Nixon* 16322–16324.

In Bedfordshire: The general conduct of relieving officers in Bedfordshire is harsh and overbearing, *Turner* 7081–7086.

2. *Size of their Districts.*

Resolution concerning the proper size and population of their districts, *Rep. p.* 39—— In determining the number of relieving officers necessary for any union, the number of paupers, the area and amount of expenditure is more to be considered than the population, *Power* 3327, 3328.

See also *Aged and Infirm. Ampthill Union*, 3. *Applications for Relief. Bradfield Union. Union Officers, &c.*

Religious Worship:

1. *In Workhouses generally.*
2. *In Metropolitan Workhouses.*
3. *In St. Paul's, Covent Garden.*
4. *In St. George's-in-the-East.*
5. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*
6. *Propriety of permitting Inmates of Workhouses to attend their own Places of Worship.*

1. *In Workhouses generally.*

Facilities offered to paupers of all religious persuasions to have instruction from their own ministers; the present regulations are incomparably better than under the old system, *Hall* 2557–2564——Children are not obliged to be brought up in the religion of the Established Church, nor are adults compelled to attend church worship, *Mott* 11787–11797 ——Notice should be hung up in different parts of the workhouse, stating that dissenters are not required to attend the worship of the Established Church, *Mott* 11837–11839.

2. *In Metropolitan Workhouses.*

The master of the workhouse reads prayers of the Established Church morning and evening, which Dissenters are not required to attend, *Mott* 11817–11823——There have been no deviations from the intentions of the Commissioners in this respect, *Mott* 11824–11825——Ministers are never refused access to paupers; applications are not numerous, *Mott* 11826–11829.

3. *In St. Paul's, Covent Garden.*

Religious instruction under the old and new systems; superiority of the latter, *Corder* 11857–11862——Before the union the parish officers refused to admit dissenting ministers, and practically confined religious instruction to the doctrines of the Established Church,

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Religious Worship—3. *In St. Paul's, Covent Garden*—continued.

Corder 11863–11866——The workhouse doors are now open to every Catholic clergyman or dissenting minister, upon the application of every inmate, *Corder* 11867–11870——Catholic ministers only in cases of danger to administer the extreme unction, *Corder* 11871–11873——It was formerly the practice to permit paupers to attend their own places of worship, but was discontinued in consequence of its abuse, *Corder* 11849.

4. *In St. George's-in-the-East.*

Roman Catholic paupers are allowed to attend chapel on Sundays by themselves, *Horrabin* 17136–17138. 17146——There are few children, but they attend the Established Church; difficulty of conveying religious instruction to them, *Horrabin* 17139, 17140——It is not generally known that the law does not oblige children to attend worship of a different creed from their parents, *Horrabin* 17161–17163.

5. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

The chaplain is required to report weekly to the guardians, and has a book for that purpose; the schoolmasters are subject to his directions with regard to religious instruction, *Kay* 4429——No difficulty has been experienced in the workhouses of Norfolk and Suffolk in the religious instruction of Dissenters, *Kay* 4429–4432——There is no objection in the rural districts, where the number of Dissenters is small, that the chaplain should have the superintendence, *Kay* 4456, 4457——In case of children not having parents or godfather or godmother, the request of friends that religious instruction should not be given according to the doctrines of the Established Church would be attended to, *Kay* 4458–4464.

6. *Propriety of permitting Inmates of Workhouses to attend their own Places of Worship.*

Observations of the Committee on the propriety of permitting the inmates of workhouses to attend places of worship, *Rep. p.* 18——Resolution recommending that paupers should be permitted to attend their respective places of worship, *Rep. p.* 40——Minutes of the Poor Law Commissioners concerning the permission of paupers to attend places of worship on Sunday, and the appointment of chaplains, *Chadwick* 17176——Statement of the Commissioners' views read, *Chadwick* 17184–17186.

In small workhouses paupers might attend their own places of worship, but in large establishments it is inconsistent with proper discipline, *Power* 3557–3559——Wherever convenient arrangements can be made, the children in the workhouse should be permitted to attend the parish church on Sunday, *Kay* 4801–4805——It would be impossible to maintain correct discipline if the able-bodied were permitted to go abroad in a body on Sunday; many of the infirm inmates cannot walk to church, *Kay* 4804——The Commissioners have not adhered strictly to the rule prohibiting paupers from leaving the workhouse on Sunday, *Mott* 11764–11766.

Doubtful expediency of permitting the paupers as a body to attend places of worship, *Mott* 11798–11800——A general law should be made permitting them to do so, subject to the regulations of boards of guardians, *Mott* 11801–11812——Members of the Established Church would assume other religious persuasions in order to enjoy the right of leaving the workhouse, *Corder* 11924–11926. 11931, 11932——There would be no difficulty in ascertaining who are Roman Catholics, *Horrabin* 17147, 17148——Paupers entering the workhouse should declare of what religion they are, *Horrabin* 17164——How far abuses of the privilege of attending places of worship may be corrected, *Corder* 11917–11924.

Persons might be allowed to attend places of worship on the written request of the minister, and a certificate should be required of their attendance, *Mott* 11830–11836——The numbers would not be so great as to render it difficult to grant certificates, *Mott* 11840——Certificates of attendance, unless signed by the minister, who could state from his own observation that the pauper had attended, would be no check, *Corder* 11882–11887——If abuses could be guarded against, paupers ought to be allowed to attend their own places of worship, *Corder* 11892–11897.

See also *Metropolitan Workhouses. Paul's, St., Covent Garden. Roman Catholics.*

Remuneration of Medical Officers:

1. *Generally.*
2. *General Inadequacy of.*
3. *Fairness of in Norfolk and Suffolk.*
4. *Variety in Amount.*
5. *Salary, and per Case.*
6. *Salary.*
7. *Per Case.*

1. *Generally.*

Comparative advantage of employing numerous medical officers at small salaries, and engaging a smaller number with higher salaries, *Kay* 5087–5094——Unions in which alterations

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alterations were made, where moderate sums were demanded by local practitioners, *Rumsey* 14827.

If arrangements with medical men are such as to produce dissatisfaction, the interests of the poor must suffer, *Rumsey* 14908——Mode of remuneration which witness would recommend, *Rumsey* 14979-15089——Reasons for the necessity of varying the arrangements for medical relief with reference to the peculiar circumstances of unions, *Rumsey* 15205——Advantages of Parliament fixing some scale of remuneration equivalent to the medical services performed, *Hall* 16033——Great difficulties in attempting any calculation as to proper amount of remuneration, *Cooper* 16045——As to out-door relief; as to workhouse payments, *Kay* 16068, 16069——The schemes proposed by medical men examined before the Committee, might be reasonably acceded to, *Kay* 16099-16101.

2. *General Inadequacy of.*

From the present mode of remuneration, medical men must be induced to use inferior drugs, &c., *Rumsey* 14938-14941. 14948-14954——It is impossible for a medical man to do his duty when he has an inefficient remuneration; it must be injurious to the poor, *Elliotson* 15885——In the majority of cases the remuneration for medical services in the unions is inadequate to the efficient discharge of the duties, *Rumsey* 14895.

3. *Fairness of, in Norfolk and Suffolk.*

In the Norfolk and Suffolk Unions the remuneration to medical men has been very fair, *Rumsey* 14896.

4. *Variety in Amount.*

There are great varieties in the amount of remuneration received in the different unions, *Rumsey* 14897——The remuneration varies according to the amount of pauperism, and the distance he has to travel; expense in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Sheffield, *Gulson* 1736-1742.

5. *Salary, and per Case.*

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6. *Salary.*

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7. *Per Case.*

Statement of the medical men to the board of guardians objecting to the per-case mode of remuneration, *Ceely* 15239——Witness considers that 10*s.* or 12*s.* per case would be fair remuneration for parochial medical attendance, *Ceely* 15481, 15482——Mode in which orders for medical relief should be given; instance of two parishes, in one of which the relief is per case, the other by salary of medical officer; in the latter the number of orders given is double, *Rumsey* 14924-14933.

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See also *Abingdon. Casualties. Chigwell. Cookham. County Surgeons. Epping. Medical Districts. Medical Officers. Medical Relief. Orders for Medical Relief. Rumsey*, Mr.

Rents:

Ampthill Union: In some cases notice has been given, that rents will be advanced; the general impression is, that rents will be raised by the reduction of rates, *Turner* 8590-8593.

Lancashire and West Riding of York: The payment of rent was the usual form of relief in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and the west riding of Yorkshire, *Power* 2841, 2842——The practice of paying rents was too general to be suddenly discontinued by a specific rule, but the guardians are disposed to abolish it, *Power* 2904-2910.

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Returns. Ordered to be laid before the Committee, 1 *Rep.* iv.

Rhubarb. Often made by drug-grinders of flour, turmeric, and a portion of rhubarb, *Thomson* 15542.

Richardson, John, a labourer of Maulden. Anecdotes of his great improvement since the introduction of the Poor Law Act, *Overman* 11556.

Richardson, of Flitwick. Circumstances connected with the refusal of the Ampthill guardians to admit him to the workhouse, *Overman* 14698–14705.

Ring Fencing. Statement of Thomas Russell, a labourer of Westoning, of the reduction of the task-work price of setting a ring fence, per pole, *Turner* 8214.

Roberts, Henry, of Milbrook. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25.

Robertsbridge Hundred (*Sussex.*) Return of inquests on bodies of illegitimate children, from J. Martin, the coroner, 20th *Rep. App. p.* 24.

Robinson, John, a labourer of Lidlington. State of his cottage and furniture; number and ages of his family; reasons of the board for refusing him relief; he married his present wife during the life of his first, *Crabtree* 8645–8660——He was offered the workhouse, but preferred remaining in his miserable cottage, *Crabtree* 8661, 8662.

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Rochford Union. Expenditure for relief and maintenance of the poor in each quarter of the year ended 25th December 1837, 11th *Rep. App. p.* 19.

See also *Establishment Charges.*

Roman Catholic Soldiers. When in barracks, are marched to their chapel on Sunday, *Corder* 11898–11900.

Roman Catholics. There are very few in the metropolitan workhouses; in Newington workhouse they were only one per cent., *Mott* 11775, 11776——They have been permitted to attend their own places of worship both under the old and new law, *Mott* 11783–11786——In Lancashire, where they are numerous, the Roman Catholic paupers might attend their places of worship in a body, *Mott* 11841.

Number in Cleveland-street and Portugal-street workhouses, *Corder* 11901–11904——If they desire to absent themselves from the service of the Established Church they are not compelled to attend, *Corder* 11905–11909——The chaplain would not examine the child of Catholic parents in the catechism, *Corder* 11912. 11914–11916——It is a peculiar obligation on Roman Catholics to attend the Sunday morning service; the clergy cannot attend workhouses during the week in large towns, *Horrabin* 17165–17168. 17172.

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Roundsmen. System of employing roundsmen destroys the energy and industry of the labourer; injury to the employer and to the independent labourer, *Power* 3646–3650.

Rowe, George Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Chigwell, Essex, 15597——Has been 16 years at Chigwell, and 26 years a general practitioner, 15600——Has been parochial surgeon ever since his residence there, 15601——Amount received in 12 years as parochial surgeon, averaging 58*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* per annum, 15602——Was appointed by the parish in vestry, 15603——Unanimously elected for 12 or 13 years successively, 15604——Meeting of the medical men of the Epping Union, to consider the future terms of remuneration for medical relief to paupers on the introduction of the new Poor Law, 15605——Proposition met with a refusal by the guardians; other terms offered; refused by all the medical men, with one exception, 15605——Examination as to terms proposed, 15606——Terms under which witness acted, 15632——Reasons why witness preferred acting, even at an unremunerating price, rather than permit the introduction into the neighbourhood of new practitioners, 15643——Witness has had 10 or 12 cases per annum of midwifery in the workhouse in the last year, 15647.

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Evils of the present system might be remedied, without giving the power to rate-payers; the witness would prefer that plan, 15028——Where parishes are too small, they might be joined together, or a smaller parish be merged in a larger, 15032——Great evil of the present system, that it removes the paupers from prompt, adequate and efficient attendance, 15034——Mode of treatment recommended as to midwifery cases; women proposed where it is practicable, 15039——In some cases, vaccination has been paid for specifically, in others, it is included in the contract, 15046——Vaccination not sufficiently encouraged, 15048——Small-pox more prevalent at present, owing to vaccination being less carefully performed, 15052——Medical clubs as now adopted, under the sanction and direction of Commissioners, highly prejudicial to the poor and the profession, 15056——A club of independent labourers should not be under the control of the guardians, 15057——System of clubs very defective; it does not provide proper medical attendance for the poor; it is a contract between medical men and the poor, without any power to protect them, 15064, 15065——Difference between medical clubs and friendly societies; the latter are picked lives, 15067——Evidence as to formation of the South Bucks Friendly Medical Relief Society, 15069——Average amount of wages of labourers about 8*s.* to 10*s.*, 15099——Evidence as to payment of medical practitioners for the Abingdon Union; amount received by them, 15115.

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their duties, *Ceely* 15444——Witness has seen Mr. Rumsey's evidence, and considers that his opinion as to size of districts, remuneration of medical men, mode of appointment, and appointment of medical commissioner, are likely, if carried into effect, to be beneficial, *Elliotson* 15856, 15857; *Toogood* 15896; *Hall* 15984——Many of the suggestions very reasonable, *Kay* 16054.

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Sandby, Rev. *George.* Chairman of the Wangford Union; his letter to Dr. Kay, on the effects of refusing out-door relief to the able-bodied during the winter, *Kay* 4666.

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Schools, Norfolk and Suffolk. Parochial schools are not numerous, and many of them are not good; they would be improved by the establishment of county schools for pauper children, *Kay* 4450-4455——In the rural districts, are generally supported by charity; the cases in which a payment is required from the parents are very few, *Kay* 4498.

Seaford. Return of inquests held upon the bodies of illegitimate children, &c. in the town and port of Seaford, since 1st January 1830, 20th *Rep. App. p.* 24.

Sear, William, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as the same relates to 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Statement respecting the earnings of himself and family in 1837; information derived from his employer and his wife, and the scale applied to the children, *Pearse* and *Marshall*, 12636-12641——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

Seduction. Suggestions for giving poor women a cheap remedy by civil action, before petty sessions, for seduction or breach of promise of marriage, *Power* 3586-3596——Any law for the protection of females, or punishment of seduction, should be entirely distinct from the laws respecting bastardy, *Kay* 4759.

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Select Vestry Act. Wherever the Select Vestry Act has been introduced into the manufacturing districts, the management of the poor has been good, and the new poor law is unpopular, *Ellison* 5294–5296——If the Select Vestry Act were made imperative on all townships in the manufacturing districts, there would be no necessity for the Poor Law Act, *Ellison* 5356, 5357——A select vestry must be better acquainted with the wants and feelings of the poor, than the guardians of a large union, *Ellison* 5464–5467.

Sepulchre's, St., (City) Workhouse. The former master of a charity school, dismissed for incompetency, attended here two hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and half an hour every other day; description of his deputy, *Hickson* 13241——In 1836 the schoolmaster was a pauper, seventy years old, lame and dirty; he received 1*s.* per week for his services, *Hickson* 13241.

Settle Union. Population thereof, *Power* 3062——Proportion of establishment charges to the other expenses; whether the same as in other unions, *Power* 3063–3093——Saving in the poor-rates exhibited by the accounts of the first quarter, as compared with the expenditure previous to the union, *Power* 3000–3010——Causes of the saving enumerated; the poor have not suffered, *Power* 3011–3014——Examination of the several items of expenditure, for the purpose of comparing accurately the old accounts with the new, *Power* 3016–3062.

The same dietary was adopted as had previously existed in the workhouse; expense per week per head of food, fuel, soap and candles, *Power* 3200——No opposition was made to the formation of the union; the poor are satisfied; case of a pauper in the workhouse having a legacy left him, and desiring to remain there, on paying for his maintenance, *Power* 3494–3498——The guardians are satisfied with the Poor Law Act, and the rate-payers have not expressed any dissatisfaction, *Power* 3686–3688. 3709–3716——Number of resident and non-resident paupers receiving relief, *Power* 3676, 3677.

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Settlement, Laws of. The settlement laws restrained the free distribution of labour, which is beneficial to the poor, *Gulson* 872–875——The effect of confining a redundant population would be, to make all the rate-payers paupers, *Gulson* 876——Should be entirely abolished; men would be induced to migrate to other parishes in search of work, *Overman* 11655.

Shadbolt, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been chairman and *ex-officio* guardian in the board of Lambeth, from its commencement, 13242——The election of guardians in the parsh of Lambeth is generally conducted by lists, 13243——It would be far more advantageous to elect them by wards, because the list-system does not secure the representation of the whole parish, 13245——The guardians are elected from the whole parish in Lambeth, but their nominatiou is at the vestry-hall, where persons interested in it get up the lists, 13247–13250——If large parishes were divided into wards, different parties would be proposed for each district, 13248——The present system leads to self-election, in consequence of the unwillingness people have to encounter elections, 13251——When the list is large, the merits and demerits of the candidates cannot be discovered; case stated in proof of this, 13254–13256——In a ward of moderate size each candidate would be known, 13257.

The guardians of Lambeth exercise their own discretion as to whether applicants shall be relieved in or out of the workhouse, 13259–13262——Temporary relief is always afforded to paupers chargeable to the parish; the orders are afterwards revised, but always for short periods, 13263–13265——The Poor Law Amendment Act requires no alteration, and is satisfactory in its operation to most parties, 13266, 13267——Persons having public-houses complain of it, because the out-door relief money was often spent there, 13268——The local Act at Lambeth interferes with the administration of the Poor Law; difficulties of co-operation, 13272, 13273——The board of guardians possesses no other power than that of giving orders for the relief of the poor, 13274——It is desirable that every thing regarding the parish should be under one control, 13276——There would be no opposition to the repeal of the local Act, 13278——When the board was first instituted, there were 200 bastard children receiving relief, of whom only 20 came into the house, 13279–13282——A distinction should be made between a woman who has only one child and another who has several, 13283–13286——Difficulty under the old law of obtaining payments from the fathers who left the parish, 13287——Persons in better circumstances ought to be obliged to pay, 13288, 13289.

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Sharp, John, of Ampthill. Has a wife and six children; income and expenses of his family; bought a pig on credit, and was trusted by the miller, *Turner* 8534–8536.

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Sharpe, Thomas, of Westoning. Circumstances of his family; whether receiving relief or not, *Turner* 8455-8461——He was in regular work, and forfeited his place, owing to his own irregularity; his daughter receives relief from the Woburn Union, *Pearse* 9823-9826——Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items of the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep App. pp.* 58, 59 ——Statement of the amount of his earnings, and of his family, in 1837; particulars respecting his family; information respecting the earnings of this man, derived from his employer, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12656-12663 —— Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

Shaw, Thomas. Letter signed by Douglas Cooper, the curate of Salford, to the Woburn board of guardians, stating the condition of this man and his family, who had migrated; relief forwarded to him by the board, *Pearse* 12969-12982——Letter written by him to the relieving officer of Woburn, in April 1837; indorsement thereon; examination relative thereto, *Pearse* 13070-13091

Shawe, Robert Newton. Letter to Dr. Kay, on the condition of labourers, in connexion with the East Suffolk Agricultural Association, *Kay* 4766.

Sheep-stealing (*Bedfordshire.*) All the experienced men in Bedfordshire say, there never was so much sheep-stealing in that part of the country as during the last winter, *Turner* 6112 ——Has not increased; the number stolen from members of an association for prosecuting sheep-stealers has diminished, *Overman* 11399-11408.

Sheffield. There are peculiar facilities for the application of the labour-test in Sheffield, *Gulson* 400, 401——The wages are at times very high, but the employment unhealthy; short lives of the artificers; their improvidence and drunkenness; number of widows receiving relief, *Gulson* 1503-1514——Difficulty of procuring employment for orphans; mechanics give the preference to children of mechanics that are living, *Gulson* 1515, 1516——Administration of the Poor Laws before the union by open vestry; great reduction of the poor-rates by the application of the workhouse and labour tests, *Gulson* 1559-1576.

Sheffield Union. The union was formed June 1837, during the disturbance of the money market and the American trade; opposition experienced; intimidation of guardians, *Gulson* 1580-1583——There has been no opposition since the formation of the union; false impressions have been removed, *Gulson* 1590-1592——The Poor Law was at first very unpopular, but is now working quietly and satisfactorily, though tried by severe commercial distress, *Gulson* 784-789——An improved administration had reduced the rates from 60,000 *l* to 9,000 *l.* before the union; the workhouse and labour tests had been applied strictly; amount of workhouse accommodation, *Gulson* 774-779——The rule prohibiting out-door relief is not yet in operation, as trade has been getting worse and worse, owing to the state of Canada, but the labour test is applied, *Gulson* 1584, 1585 ——The poor are making a road for the Duke of Norfolk; 300 able-bodied men are employed, *Gulson* 1585-1587.

Sherman, or *Sharman, James, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement as to the earnings, &c. of himself and family in 1837; as regards his own earnings, the information was given by himself; the scale applied to those of his children, *Pearse* and *Marshall*, 12418-12422——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

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Sherwood, Job and *Thomas, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing their comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of their families, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57—— Statement as to the earnings, &c. of themselves and families in 1837, as furnished by them or their employers, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 11613. 12618. 12461-12466——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

Shipton Mallett (*Union*) *Workhouse.* The master and matron are required to teach the children to read and write, in addition to the performance of all their other duties to the adult paupers, *Hickson* 13241.

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Shipton-on-Stour Union. Reductions which have taken place in the number of medical officers in this union, *Rumsey* 14783——Extent of union; greatest distance of patients from medical aid; number of parishes; amount of population, *Rumsey* 14763——Witness believes strangers have been introduced into this union as medical practitioners, under the power of the Poor Law Act, *Rumsey* 14824.

Shitlington (*Ampthill Union.*) Population and number of paupers; the poor are paid in the public-house; the minister will not permit the vestry-room to be used for that purpose, as it is necessary to pass through the church, *Marshall* 9073–9078——Population and number of labourers employed on the land, *Turner* 6069–6070——Its distance from the union workhouse, *Musgrave* 5476——Extract from a letter of Mr. Lines, a farmer, on the improvement of that parish since the new law; the increase of employment, and the moral habits and industry of the poor, *Overman* 11374——Comparative statement of the condition of six labourers (three in constant work and three not in constant work) in 1834 and 1837, 28th *Rep., App. p.* 25.

Shoreditch. There are 120 trustees whose only duty, except the relief of the poor, is to keep the church-yard in repair, *Mott* 12019, 12020.

Shoreditch Workhouse. The schoolmaster in 1836 was a pauper, paralytic and generally infirm; the schoolmistress was also a pauper, *Hickson* 13241.

Short, Jesse, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, earnings, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——He works with his father, and jobs at home, and plaits, and has been down at the railroad; no satisfactory account can be given of his earnings, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12469; 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57 —— Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Short, John, Richard and *William, of Westoning.* Tabular statement, showing their comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of their families, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep., App. pp.* 44, 45 ——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above account, so far as relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57—— Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App. p.* 52.

Short, John. Statement of his earnings and outgoings in 1837; he pays no rent, as he lives with his father; he was married in December 1837; he never communicated with Mr. Turner or Mr. Crabtree, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12245–12250.

Short, Richard, of Westoning. His statement as to the amount of the earnings, &c. of himself in 1837; the scale was applied to the earnings of his daughters, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12423–12428—— He is subject to rheumatic affection of the head; loses about one-fourth of his time from this cause, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57.

Short, William, of Westoning. Statement of the earnings of himself and family in 1837; he refused to give any information; the amount of his earnings was obtained from his employer, and the scale applied to the earnings of his family; rent paid by him is a trifle more than is usual, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12363–12370.

Silsoe (*Ampthill Union.*) When visited by the relieving officer; the poor are paid in the church-porch, screened from the weather; population and number of paupers, *Marshall* 9098–9108——Extracts from letters of farmers on the increased amount of money expended on labour in that parish; average wages for some years; price of wheat, &c., *Overman* 11374——The poor-rate was never high; the able-bodied were seldom relieved, except when sick; they were in constant employment, *Overman* 11410–11418——A few old men only received money from the parish while employed by farmers, *Overman* 11420 ——The diminution of rates has been caused by the discontinuance of illegal payments; certain items extracted from the books, *Overman* 11472–11478.

Sissick, John, of Lidlington. Earnings of himself and family, as stated by his employer, Mr. Line, *Overman* 14618–14625——Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 24.

Sissick, John, of Marston. Description of his cottage and furniture; amount of his ordinary wages, and earnings at harvest, and number and ages of his children, &c., *Crabtree* 8664–8678. 8681–8697.

Skipton Union. The guardians have experienced much difficulty in obtaining correct accounts of the circumstances of applicants for relief, *Power* 2942——They were at first opposed to the regulations of the Commissioners; there has been no violent opposition to the law, *Power* 3499–3501.

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Sleaford Union. Many men have received out-door relief therein, although possessed of a pig and potatoes, as the workhouse is not completed, *Gulson* 289–291.

Small Pox. Is more prevalent at present, owing to vaccination being less carefully performed, *Rumsey* 15052.

Smith, Samuel. A labourer of Maulden; anecdote of his improved habits and industry since the refusal of out-door relief to the able-bodid, *Overman* 11556–11569.

Smith, Mr., *of Nottingham.* Explanation of remarks made on the occasion of Mr. Smith's election to the magistracy, *Gulson* 16352, 16353.

Smith, William. A farmer of Westoning; assisted Mr. Pearse in his inquiries into the earnings of labourers; reasons for selecting him, *Pearse* 12782–12789.

Smiths (*Nottingham.*) Average wages of 93 smiths in Nottingham, employed in making machinery; earnings of their families, &c., *Gulson* 543.

Snow (*Bedfordshire.*) Individuals suffered, but not severely; their suffering is to be attributed to the severity of the weather, and not to the Poor Law Act, *Adey* 5600, 5601. 5629, 5630.

Somerfield, John, of Westoning. Tabular statament, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items contained in the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement of the earnings of himself and family in 1837, as given by himself, and confirmed by his employer, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12377–12382 —— Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Somerset County. Summary of unions formed by Robert Weale, Esq., Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, 47th *Rep. App. pp.* 37–41.

Somerville, James. An aged labourer of Westoning (Ampthill Union); his allowances before and since the union; his age, circumstances, family, earnings, &c., *Turner* 7386–7462 ——His allowance was reduced in consequence of being in regular employ, *Marshall* 9504, 9505. 9512–9515.

South Buckinghamshire Medical Society. Evidence as to the formation of the South Bucks Friendly Medical Relief Society, *Rumsey* 15069——Mode in which the members of the South Bucks Medical Society obtain relief in case of sickness, *Rumsey* 15224——Is the only medical club the plan of which witness can tolerate, *Ceely* 15501.

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Spilsby Union, Lincolnshire. Population, extent, number of parishes, &c., *Gulson* 1313.

Squires, Mr., *of Silsoe.* Extract of letter from him, stating the rates of wages paid by him, together with the price of wheat, 1834–1837, *Overman* 11374.

Steam-power, Lancashire. Communications on the amount of steam-power in Preston, Wigan and Blackburn, *Kay* 4636–4643——Statement of the increase of steam-power which it was expected would occur in two years succeeding July 1835 in certain districts; summary of returns to order of the Committee, 48th *Rep. App. p.* 46.

Steppingley (*Ampthill Union.*) Population and number of paupers; when visited by the relieving officer; no place is provided for paying the poor, *Marshall* 9187–9191.

Storax. Extent to which this drug is often adulterated by drug-grinders, *Thomson* 15542.

Storie, The Rev. *John.* (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Chairman of the Camberwell Union, 13290——The board order applicants into the house, or give them out-door relief, at their discretion; this practice is very salutary, and attended with no inconvenience, 13292–13295. 13319——The new Poor Law provides much more efficiently for the old, the helpless and the diseased, than the former system, 13300——The union presides over its own parish only, the population of which is 38,000, and the extent 22 miles in circumference, 13301–13305——The most distant part of the parish being but three or four miles, one overseer is sufficient to discharge the duty, 13306–13308——On application being made the overseer goes to the house of the applicant, 13309——He has power to order immediate relief, reporting the circumstance afterwards to the board, 13309, 13310 ——The board never refuse to see the paupers who apply to them, and would dismiss the relieving officer if found throwing obstacles in their way, 13311–13313——Comparative state of the Camberwell rates before and since the introduction of the Poor Law, 13314,

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13315—— The reduction caused no provocation to the poor, 13316—— The poor out of the house are not better paid than formerly, but they are now constantly under the eye of the relieving officer; the allowance is given principally in kind, 13317, 13318—— The people being compelled by the new law to depend upon themselves, are much improved with respect to moral habits and temporal comforts, 13320–13329——Witness strongly recommends that the making of the rates, and all the duties which are now performed by others, should be left to the board of guardians, 13330–13344——The office of overseer is all but useless; it should be done away with, and the relieving officer should be dependent on the board of guardians, 13344–13346——Usual form in removing lunatics from the workhouse, 13347, 13348——Suggested improvement in the mode of keeping the parochial and Poor Law accounts, 13350–13352——The administration of the Poor Law is becoming more satisfactory to the poor than it was, 13353–13358 ——Witness delivers in a Report from the board of guardians, 13359–13363——Wholesome character of the dietary, 13364–13368——Very few able-bodied paupers enter the workhouse; they remain a short time only, 13369–13373——Classification is observed, 13374–13375——There is no school; the children are sent to Norwood, 13376, 13377 ——The Commissioners have always assented to the suggestions of the guardians, 13378–13383——The bastardy clauses have worked well; bastardy has decreased, 13384–13390. 13402——Infanticide has not increased, 13391, 13392——Orders for payment already made on fathers are enforced, 13394, 13395——Orders of affiliation have been applied for in only one or two cases, 13396–13400.

Stow Union. Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouses December 1837, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, *ib. p.* 33——Table of the rate of wages, and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, *ib. p.* 37——Tables of mortality in the workhouse at different periods, *ib. pp.* 42–45——Reductions which have taken place in the number of medical attendants in this union, *Rumsey* 14783.

Stow-on-the-Wold Union. No chaplain has yet been appointed, but the guardians are proceeding to the appointment of one, *Hall* 2532.

Strand Union. Improved condition of the poor under the new law, *Corder* 11992, 11993.

Strand Union Workhouse. Restrictions under which paupers are permitted to leave the workhouse on Monday; some generally return intoxicated, *Corder* 11887–11888——The paupers are permitted to leave the house on Monday; how far the privilege might be extended to Sunday, *Corder* 11994–12002.

Strangers, Introduction of, as Medical Officers:
1. *Generally.*
2. *In particular Places.*

1. *Generally.*

Names of several unions into which strangers have been introduced as medical practitioners under the present Poor Law Commissioners' arrangements, *Rumsey* 14824—— Witness is of opinion, that in many instances reasonable proposals of medical practitioners in the districts have been rejected, for the purpose of introducing strangers, *Rumsey* 14835 ——Such conduct has been productive of injury to the poor, and has given offence to many medical men, *Rumsey* 14836——In many instances, as Amersham and Aylesbury, after guardians had introduced a stranger, they found it advisable to adopt the proposals of the local medical practitioners, which had been previously rejected, *Rumsey* 14839–14842——Nothing can be worse for the poor, or more degrading to the profession, than for medical men to be introduced as strangers only on account of offering to do the work for a small remuneration, *Cooper* 16049.

2. *In particular Places.*

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1. *Generally.*

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relief that has been taken away, 8384-8388——Case of Edward Armsden, 8389-8391——Some of the poor buy pigs and their food on credit, and their only profit is the manure, 8405-8420——Explanations relative to the table of labourers' earnings, 8432-8454——Case of Thomas Sharpe, 8455-8462.

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Underwood, William. A person who migrated from the Woburn Union; names of certain orphans that were sent under his protection, *Pearse* 12986.

Union Accounts. Examination of the mode in which the abstract of union expenses are prepared; how far they serve for comparing expenses before and since the formation of unions, *Power* 3016-3062.

Union Officers. The guardians are generally anxious to obtain the best men as governors of workhouses and relieving officers, but partiality is sometimes shown in the selection, *Gulson* 927-931——Vesting the appointment in the Commissioners would be an improvement; they do not like to negative appointments made by the guardians, *Gulson* 932-937——Might be employed for other purposes than those which at present engage them; the Commissioners should have power to regulate their functions, *Gulson* 1997——Are all elected by the guardians; their number and salaries are sometimes prescribed by the Commissioners, but these points are generally determined by the guardians, *Power* 3230-3233——Importance of selecting fit persons; the Commissioners have dismissed very few; when the guardians act more generally with them, they will exercise the power of dismissal more freely; general control of union officers, *Kay* 4992-4999.

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1. *Size and Population thereof.*
2. *Propriety of giving the Commissioners Power to alter them.*

1. *Size and Population thereof.*

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Those formed by Mr. Power in the manufacturing districts are too large; the duties imposed upon the guardians during depressions in trade will be excessive, *Ellison* 5210-5218——The average population of the Dewsbury, Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield and Barnsley Unions is 100,000; the population has greatly increased since 1831, *Ellison* 5331-5338——General distance of parishes from the centre in Norfolk and Suffolk, *Kay* 4982-4983.

Account showing the population of unions in which workhouses have been established two years and upwards; sums expended in out-door relief, in maintenance and establishment charges; number of in-door and out-door paupers; amount and rate per cent.; decrease and per-centage of in-door paupers on the population, 23 *Rep. App. p.* 26——

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Observations and resolution concerning the propriety of giving power to the Commissioners to alter unions, *Rep. p.* 34, 35——Greater power should be given to Commissioners to alter unions; great inconveniences arise from the necessity of obtaining the consent of two-thirds of the guardians, *Gulson* 1366–1370——Suggestions concerning the arrangements which might be made in respect of the contributions of parishes to the workhouses, on being transferred from one union to another, *Gulson* 1371–1380. 1389–1392——No parish should be transferred from one union to another, unless at their own desire, *Gulson* 1393, 1394——The power of changing unions might safely be left with the Commissioners, and equitable adjustment as to funds would be made by them, *Gulson* 1395-1397——The Commissioners should be able to re-cast unions, or to make alterations; the unions are generally too small, *Hall* 2811–2816——Difficulties in the formation of unions in Norfolk and Suffolk; if the Commissioners had power to alter them, they could have no sinister interests to serve, *Kay* 4982–4991.

Urchfont (*Devizes Union.*) Case of a family who migrated thence to Bradford under arrangements made by the migration agent, and afterwards returned to Urchfont, *Bull* 6289–6327.

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Vaccination. The introduction of vaccination has been general; it is sometimes included in the medical contract, and sometimes paid for separately, *Gulson* 1944, 1945——Vaccination is not sufficiently encouraged, *Rumsey* 15048——Small-pox more prevalent at present, owing to vaccination being less carefully performed, *Rumsey* 15052——In some contracts for medical attendance on the poor, vaccination has been paid for specially, in others it is included, *Rumsey* 15046.

Vagrancy. A man leaving his parish in search of employment, would not be taken up as a vagrant for leaving his family destitute, *Gulson* 160–163.

Ventilation of Workhouses. Partial failure of attempting ventilation of workhouses by warm-water apparatus, *Kay* 16079.

Vestries. Open vestries had not better means of information with respect to the means of employment than the guardians; the farmers did not attend, and were acquainted with one parish only, *Gulson* 159. 164–167——Rate-payers attended as a matter of right, and the poor were admitted; how far this right has been infringed by the practice of boards of guardians, *Pearse* 10859–10865.

Vestry Clerks. Payments to vestry clerks, unless they are also assistant overseers, are illegal, *Power* 3339.

Virgin, William, of Pulloxhill. Observations of the Committee on his wife's case, *Rep. p.* 15——His family and circumstances; dangerous illness of his wife; delay of Dr. Hamilton in attending her in pursuance of the order, *Turner* 8289–8299——The relieving officer gave him an order for a doctor before he had seen the board; his wife received what the medical man ordered, *Marshall* 9777–9798. 9806–9813.

Visiting Committee. The entries in the book of the visiting committee are regularly made and read at the meeting of the guardians, *Hall* 2514–2516.

Visitors. Are admitted to the workhouse on entering their names and address; they are accompanied by the master, and are requested to enter their observations in a book, *Hall* 2517–2519.

Visitors' Book. Wherever the workhouses are completed, a book is kept, in which visitors may record their observations, *Gulson* 925.

W.

WAGES:

1. *General Effect of the Poor Law Act upon Wages.*
2. *Ampthill Union.*
3. *Bedfordshire.*
4. *Essex.*
5. *Lincolnshire.*
6. *Manufacturing Districts.*
7. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

1. *General Effect of the Poor Law Act upon Wages.*

Effect of the Poor Law Act to equalize wages, *Gulson* 349–351——Reasons for anticipating a rise of wages in Oxfordshire, instead of a reduction in Lincolnshire, *Gulson* 637–

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637-648——Wages have not been reduced in Lincolnshire, and the united receipts of a man and his family in Oxfordshire are increased, *Gulson* 684-688——The Poor Law, by distributing labour, will equalize wages, but will not, on the whole, reduce them, *Gulson* 668-670——Mode in which the Poor Law Act operates upon wages; single men are induced to seek employment out of their parishes, *Gulson* 435-440. 457-459——The withdrawal of the allowance to able-bodied labourers will raise their wages; the value of their labour will be increased, *Gulson*, 649-657——The earnings of the labouring man are certainly increased by the operation of the law, *Hall* 2690——The general information received is, that wages are now equal to the wages and allowance together before the new law, *Gulson* 658-667——The condition of the labourers is such as to justify the inference that their earnings are equal to their former wages and head-money combined, *Hall* 2767-2779——Wages have risen in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire and Nottingham, and parts of Gloucestershire and west riding of York, *Gulson* 714-718.

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Beneficial effects of applying the money formerly spent in poor-rates to the wages of labour, both upon the farmer and labourer, *Hall* 2729-2733; *Rawson* 16665-16668——The former system of administering relief had a tendency to lower wages, which tendency does not exist in the system that is substituted, *Power* 3798, 3799——The fear of incarceration in a workhouse, must induce the labourer to beg for work at a reduced rate of wages, and undersell others in the labour-market, *Bull* 6274——Tendency of the Poor Law to diminish wages, by inducing men to accept a reduction rather than enter the workhouse, *Rawson* 16472-16474——Proposition for establishing by law a general minimum of wages, *Bull* 6355, 6356——Wages have not increased where the law has been some time in operation, and the price of provisions has risen, *Bull* 6357-6360——Effect of a disparity of wages earned by single and married men; tendency to prefer the labour of single men; how far restrained by the workhouse system; general reduction of wages to be apprehended, *Turner* 7275-7302.

2. *Ampthill Union.*

Day-wages have not fallen since the new poor-law system has been in operation, but the price of task-work is lower; the labourers say they are obliged to take any money that their employers offer them, *Turner* 6004-6019——Calculations of the income and expenditure, in detail, of three families in the Ampthill Union, in 1834 and 1837, *Turner* 6751——Wages of young single men as compared with married men; their condition and employment before and since the new law, *Turner* 7259-7266——Wages given to several labourers in Ampthill and Milbrook parishes, showing a higher rate than stated by witness, *Turner* 8142-8148——Names of six married labourers who accepted work at a shilling a-day of Mr. Musgrave, rather than enter the workhouse, *Turner* 8228-8232. 8240-8244——Denial of the truth of this statement, *Musgrave* 11272.

Summary of the earnings and expenses of 48 labourers and their families, in 1834 and 1837; price of provisions and clothing at the two periods, *Turner* 8072-8112——Similar statement relative to 30 labourers in constant employment in Westoning. *Turner* 8342-8376——Improvement in the rate of wages in Westoning since 1834, *Pearse* 9925——In Westoning there is no alteration in wages of day-work, either in the summer or winter, except at hay-time and harvest, *Pearse* 9931——Names of 21 labourers of Ampthill Union whose wages were ascertained by Mr. Pearse in 1837, *Marshall* 13584-13589——Observations on evidence 7253, as to wages of boys, *Marshall* 9497-9499——Daily wages have increased within the last three years; wages in 1832, 1833, 1834, and at the present time, *Overman* 11344-11349——The wages and employment of single men have much increased, *Overman* 11409——At Maulden, *Overman* 11607-11610.

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3. *Bedfordshire.*

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4. *Essex.*

Extent to which wages varied in different parts, *Power* 3378——Were lowest in those districts in which the allowance system had prevailed the longest; they frequently bore but a small proportion to the allowance, *Power* 3781–3784.

5. *Lincolnshire.*

Wages average from 11*s.* to 13*s.* a-week, *Gulson* 349.

6. *Manufacturing Districts.*

In periods of distress the artisans will not suffer the rate of wages to be reduced, but they work for four days only at task-work at the usual prices, *Gulson* 577–599——They may counteract any depression by combination, *Gulson* 615–618——They will submit to the temporary inconvenience of ill-paid parish task-work rather than accept a permanently low rate of wages, *Gulson* 614–636——Manner in which the wages of operatives are depressed by the allowance system, *Power* 3289–3290——Effects of the poor law and migration upon wages in the rural and manufacturing districts respectively, *Bull* 6667–6677——The people in the latter believe that the Poor Law Act is intended to reduce wages, *Bull* 6678–6686——Effect of migration upon wages in those places into which the influx takes place, *Gulson* 851–871——The wages in Lancashire are as high as they were 30 or 40 years ago, notwithstanding the immense immigration, *Gulson* 877–882.

7. *Norfolk and Suffolk.*

The nominal rate of wages has risen from 8*s.* to 10*s.*, and the income of families has increased in a greater proportion, *Kay* 4524——The intelligent occupiers of Norfolk and Suffolk conceive they have a direct interest in the rise of wages to a remunerating price to the labourer, *Kay* 4701——Wherever wages are low, there is less exertion on the part of labourers; a labourer in Ireland earns one-third as much as an English labourer, and he does no more than one-third the work, *Kay* 4836——General rate of wages in Norfolk and Suffolk, *Kay* 4835——Calculations of the extent to which they have increased since the Poor Law Act, *Kay* 4866–4880. 4844–4887. 4891–4899. 5173–5178——Table of the rate of wages, and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen in Norfolk and Suffolk, 14th *Rep. App.*, *p.* 36.

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Wakefield Union. See *Guardians.*

Walker, Jemima, of Clophill. Receives 2*s.* per week from the parish; she received the same amount under the old as under the new law, *Marshall* 10189–10209.

Walker, James, of Milbrook. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App.*, *p.* 25.

Wallingford Union. Evidence as to appointment of medical officers, *Rumsey* 14762.

Wallingford, Gilbert Union. Reasons for recommending the dissolution thereof; careless management; inattention of the guardians, *Hall* 2295–2298——State of the workhouse; want of classification; apartments set aside for families exercising trades, *Hall* 2299–2305.

Walsingham Union. Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse December 1837, 14th *Rep. App.*, *p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, *ib. p.* 33——Number of various classes of paupers maintained in the workhouse in the week ending 2d January 1838, *ib. p.* 34——Table of the rate of wages, and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, *ib. p.* 38.

Walton, James, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App.*, *pp.* 44, 45——Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep., App. pp.* 56, 57——Statement with respect to the earnings of himself, his wife and family, in 1837, as obtained from himself, as regards his own earnings; the scale was applied to the wife's earnings, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12279–12286——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep., App., p.* 52.

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Wangford Union. Letter of Rev. G. Sandby on the effect of refusing out-door relief to the able-bodied during the winter; number of persons to whom the house was offered, and who entered, &c., *Kay* 4666——Statement of the number of attendances of the guardians at each of the weekly and quarterly meetings from Michaelmas 1835 to Michaelmas 1836, 14th *Rep., App. p.* 35——Returns of children of various classes of paupers in the workhouse at different periods, *ib. pp.* 32–34——Tables of mortality in the workhouse at different periods, *ib. pp.* 42–45.

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Warrington Union. The guardians have not taken possession of either of the workhouses at their disposal, and are administering out-door relief, *Power* 2910——Average expenditure for the relief of the poor for three years preceding the union, *Power* 3135.

Washington, Richard, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, expenses, &c., in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 46, 47——Result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as the same relates to the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 58, 59——Particulars of the earnings of himself and family in 1837, as received from the man and his employer; the scale applied to the wife and child, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12664–12669——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

Watchmen, Bedfordshire. Before the new Poor Law, watchmen were employed in many places to protect farming property; alteration that has since taken place, *Overman* 14417–14426.

Wayland Union. Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse December 1837, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, *ib. p.* 33——Number of various classes of paupers maintained in the workhouse in the week ending 2 January 1838, *ib. p.* 34——Table of the rate of wages, and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, *ib. p.* 38.

Weale, Robert. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, 16398——Explains the nature of certain statistical returns, drawn up by him, concerning the unions under his charge, 16399–16401.

Weale, Robert. Summary of unions formed by him in the counties of Gloucester, Somerset and Worcester, 47th *Rep. App. pp.* 34–43——Question proposed by him October 1837 to the several boards of guardians in his district, where the rules prohibiting out-door relief to able-bodied male paupers, are in operation, and the answers to such queries, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 44.

Webster, George, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Dulwich, 15120——Member of the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, 15122——General practitioner at Dulwich, 15123——President of the British Medical Association, 15125——Surgeon of the Dulwich district; circumstances under which witness received the appointment; his present position, 15133–15161——Circumstances which induced the formation of the British Medical Association, in consequence of the injuries inflicted on the profession by the Poor Law Amendment Act, 15162——Witness agrees in every particular with Mr. Rumsey, 15166——Heads of a plan proposed by witness for parochial medical attendance on the poor, 15770——Different systems of management at Camberwell and Dulwich within the last 20 years, 15174–15185——Opinion of witness, that a class above paupers should be entitled to medical relief under certain restrictions, 15186——Witness does not think the poor well attended to at Dulwich at present, but attaches no fault to the medical gentlemen appointed, 15190.

Weekly Returns. Advantages of the weekly reports of the surgeon to the board; nature of the report, *Gulson* 1756–1761——Manner in which they operate as a security for the proper attendance being given to the poor, *Gulson* 1824–1826——The weekly returns ordered by the board from medical officers are very useful, *Rumsey* 14919; *Ceely* 15427; *Evans* 15761——General favourable opinion now entertained by members of the medical profession of the great importance of the returns which they are obliged to make from week to week, *Kay* 16075.

Wellerborough Lees (*East Ashford Union*) *Workhouse.* The porter, 60 years of age, acted as schoolmaster for 8*s.* per week; the schoolmistress had 18*l.* per annum; she had formerly kept a village school, *Hickson* 13241.

Wells, George Stansfield, of Soyland, near Halifax. Copy of the consignment of certain families from the rural districts to him, stating the wages they were to receive, *Turner* 7719–7728.

West Wells (*West Ashford Union*) *Workhouse.* The schoolmaster was last steward on board one of the convict hulks at Sheerness; he was to assist in the kitchen, and make himself generally useful, for 25*l.* per annum, *Hickson* 13241.

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West, Joseph, of Cranfield. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 24.

Westminster Central National School. Applications have been made to this school for teachers in the workhouse schools, but much difficulty has been found in procuring them, *Kay* 4405.

Weston, William, of Shitlington. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 25——Statement of Mr. Musgrave, senior, of the wages of W. Weston, and of the account given by his wife of her interview with Messrs. Crabtree and Turner concerning her mode of living, *Musgrave* 11272.

Westoning (Ampthill Union):

1. *Generally.*
2. *Parochial Administration of the Poor Law therein.*
3. *Wages and Employment.*

1. *Generally.*

All the cottages are wretched; a great portion of the labourers are addicted to drinking, having been corrupted under the old system of relief, *Pearse* 9905–9908——There has been a change since the new law; there are no longer 70 or 80 men congregated together for purposes of mischief, *Pearse* 9907, 9908——Many of the cottages are occupied without payment of rent, and are too bad to be repaired, *Pearse* 9934, 9935——Is not a distressed place; when the men are out of work, they can plait nearly as well as the women, *Marshall* 9251–9259——Population and number of paupers; when visited by the relieving officer; the poor are paid in the church-porch, much exposed to the weather, *Marshall* 9177-9182——Population and number of labourers employed in the cultivation of the land, *Turner* 6071–6075——The farms are not so large generally as in other parishes, *Turner* 7270–7273.

2. *Parochial Administration of the Poor Law therein.*

System of intimidation formerly exercised by the labourers upon occupiers of land, *Pearse* 9917–9919——Before the new law, the greater part of the able-bodied men were sent to work in gravel-pits; they committed depredations upon the neighbouring property, and would not permit any one to work who was well disposed, *Whitehurst* 11147–11154. 11248–11253——The general condition of the parish with respect to labour and industry has since improved, *Whitehurst* 11155–11159——More pauperism prevailed than in any other parish; the allowance began with the first child; statement of Mr. Pearse, the vicar; the labourers were dissatisfied with the system; they only want better wages, *Turner* 8330–8340. 8364——The allowance system was abolished by the parochial authorities of their own accord before the introduction of the Poor Law Act, *Turner* 8365–8368.

3. *Wages and Employment.*

The parish offers a fair criterion of wages in the Ampthill Union, but not of employment; property has been in an unsettled state, *Pearse* 9960-9962——Statement of the increase of employment, and sums paid in wages in 1834 and 1837, and corresponding diminution of rates formerly spent unproductively, *Overman* 11537–11554——Number of unemployed labourers in Westoning in the winters of 1834 and 1837, *Pearse* 9925——Number of able-bodied men employed in the gravel-pits before the new law, and out of employment in February 1838, *Turner* 5883–5894——Table, showing the state of three labourers in husbandry during 1834, 23d *Rep. App. p.* 34——Explanations concerning the tabular statement of income and expenditure of the families of labouring men, *Turner* 7804–7845——Reasons for selecting Westoning for making inquiries into the condition of the poor; circumstances connected with the rating of the parish, *Turner* 7910–7923——The impossibility of living upon the sums stated; as the whole income of certain families in these tables shows that other sources of income must exist, *Turner* 7927–7951.

Comparative statement, by Mr. Turner, showing the condition of 48 men belonging to the parish, whose employment has been irregular, for the years 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. p.* 44——Comparative statement, showing the condition of 30 men whose employment has been regular, *ib. p.* 47——Result of an inquiry into the above statements, by Mr. Pearse, for the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56–59——Comparative statement of the incomes of 48 labourers of Westoning, as shown by the table of Mr. Turner, and subsequently by the table of Mr. Pearse and Mr. Marshall, drawn up by Mr. Marshall, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52——Similar statement of the incomes of 30 labourers, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 53.

See also *Ampthill Union. Wages, &c.*

Whately, Mr. See *Maidenhead (Berks.)*

Wheat Setting. The practice of setting wheat has not increased lately, *Overman* 11337.

Reports, 1837–8—*continued.*

Wheatenhurst Union. Witness believes strangers have been introduced into this union as medical practitioners under the powers of the Poor Law Act, *Rumsey* 14824.

Wheeler, Amos. Committed to Bedford gaol for a month for gathering rotten wood in Lord Holland's park, *Turner* 8040–8044——Return of depositions, and commitment of, 21st December 1837, for cutting wood, 27th *Rep. App. p.* 49——Memoranda of his convictions, 1833–1837, *ib. p.* 49.

White Precipitate of Mercury. This drug is sometimes sold as calomel, *Thomson* 15541.

Whitehurst, Rev. *Thomas Beach.* (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Member of the board of guardians of the Ampthill Union, 11116–11119——Has resided 23 years at Ampthill, and 15 at Westoning, 11120–11121——His father was vicar of Westoning, 11122——The morals of the poor are improved; they are more inclined to be industrious, 11123, 11124——Their physicial condition is not worse, nor have they less means of providing themselves with the necessaries of life, 11125——There is no appearance of increased weakness or inability to labour, 11127——They are generally employed in more regular labour, 11128——The condition of their cottages and furniture has not deteriorated, 11129–11131——The relationship in which labourers stand to their employers is better than it was before the Poor Law Act, 11132——Witness was not favourable to some of the provisions of the Act on its first introduction, 11133, 11134——His experience of its operation has altered his opinions, 11135.

He thought the bastardy clauses might lead to infanticide, but there is no proof that they have, and bastardy is on the decrease, 11136–11138. 11234-11238——The refusal of out-door relief to the able-bodied has been a great spur to exertion, 11139–11142——It has not reduced them to greater difficulty or distress, but has compelled many to work who never worked before, 11143——It has not had the effect of lowering the rate of wages, 11144——Witness has never heard complaints from well-disposed and industrious labourers, but only from those who live chiefly upon parish relief, 11144-11146——Before the new law, the able-bodied were sent to the parish gravel-pit in Westoning in great numbers, 11147–11151——They committed depredations upon the neighbouring property, and would not permit any to work who were so disposed, 11152–11154——The general condition of the parish with respect to labour and industry has since improved, 11155–11159.

The alteration of the bastardy law has made women more prudent; the old law was an encouragement to bastardy, 11160–11190——It has not produced any spirit of hostility to the new law; many very humane persons approve of the change, 11191–11193——Under the old system, the money paid by the father was an indemnity to the parish, but the mother invariably received it, 11194–11198——She was liable to imprisonment, but the punishment was rarely inflicted, 11199–11201——The payment was enforced against the man by imprisonment, 11202–11205——But might be avoided by marrying the woman, which the parish endeavoured to induce him to do, 11206–11208——Such marriages are not conducive to morality, 11209, 11210.

Morality is advanced by throwing upon the woman the responsibility of her own conduct, 11211, 11212——This has been the effect of the present law in witness's neighbourhood, 11213–11215——It would be difficult to give the woman any claims upon a man, which would not operate as an inducement to consent to his proposals, 11216——Applications to quarter sessions for affiliations are not encouraged, 11217–11219——Relief is given in the workhouse to women pregnant with bastard children, 11220, 11221——When parents have been able to support them, their coming into the workhouse has been discouraged, 11222, 11223——They have seldom remained in it long after their confinement, 11224–11226——They have supported themselves by straw-plaiting, 11227, 11228——Under the old law, fathers of bastard children could only be imprisoned when they had no goods, but they were generally living with their parents, and frequently received their wages from the parish, 11229, 11230——Persons who have had an illicit connexion, had better be separated than forced to marry, 11231–11233——Witness has heard of no cases of desertion of children in the Ampthill Union, 11240.

The greater part of the labourers at Westoning were employed in gravel-pits, or paid out of the parish funds, 11248–11258——The Ampthill Union workhouse is well regulated, and in good order, 11260, 11261——The paupers are remarkably healthy; complaints are made of the dietary, but witness is convinced, by experiment, that it is sufficient, 11262–11268——The children are allowed to walk out, and are very healthy, 11269, 11270.

WIDOWS:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Ampthill Union.*
3. *Woburn Union.*

1. *Generally.*

Resolution, that a power should be continued to boards of guardians to relieve, out of the workhouse widows with young children left dependent upon them for support, *Rep.*

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

Widows—1. *Generally*—continued.

p. 39——In witness's district it is the custom to relieve able-bodied widows with children out of the workhouse, *Gulson* 2047, 2048——Expediency of withholding relief from widows with young children out of the workhouse; their resources in maintaining themselves, *Hall* 2749–2761——The best mode of relief would be afforded by receiving some of the children into the workhouse; but this test would operate unequally on persons of different characters, *Hall* 2762–2766.

2. *Ampthill Union.*

It has been the custom to offer widows with children, suited for the factories, the alternative of migration, or an order into the workhouse; they have suffered great privations rather than accept either, *Turner* 7675-7682——Number of cases in which widows have had their allowances increased in Clophill, Cranfield, Gravenhurst, Marston, Hawnes and Steppingley, *Turner* 8313–8317.

3. *Woburn Union.*

The guardians have administered the law with kindness, *Pearse* 13127, 13128.

Wigston, Great (*Leicestershire.*) Average weekly expenditure therein before and since the introduction of the Poor Law Act, *Hall* 2151——The poor-rates were reduced by good management before the new Poor Law, and are higher now, *Swain* 16879–16891——Exertions of Mr. Sedgely, the perpetual overseer, *Swain* 16892–16894.

Williams, Cadogan. His statements concerning insurances, and proposals for the establishment of the British Deferred Annuity Society, 39th *Rep. App. p.* 60.

Wilson, George, of Cranfield. Comparative statement of his condition in 1834 and 1837; earnings of his family, &c., 28th *Rep. App. p.* 24.

Wilson, James. A labourer of Steppingley, in the Ampthill Union; circumstances of his family; his application for medical relief for his wife; refused by the relieving officer, *Turner* 6890–6896. 7001–7004 ——The relieving officer did not refuse to receive his application for medical relief, but would not give him an order, as in a case of urgent necessity; he did not apply to the board; his wages; by whom employed, &c., *Marshall* 9437–9446. 10223–10291. 10363–10441——He was refused relief because he was an able-bodied man; circumstances of his family, *Marshall* 13528–13537.

Wilsted, John, of Westoning. Tabular statement, showing his comparative condition with respect to wages, employment, the earnings of his family, allowance from the parish, expenses, &c. in 1834 and 1837, 27th *Rep. App. pp.* 44, 45 —— Tabular statement, showing the result of an inquiry, by Mr. Pearse, into the various items comprised in the above statement, so far as regards the year 1837, 39th *Rep. App. pp.* 56, 57——Inaccuracy of Mr. Turner's statement as to his earnings, *Pearse* 11108–11111——Statement of his earnings, &c. in 1837 as given by himself; the scale was applied as to the earnings of his wife and daughter, *Pearse* and *Marshall* 12371–12376——Comparative statement, 47th *Rep. App. p.* 52.

Winchelsea. Return of inquest holden on the body of an illegitimate child, and verdict thereupon, 24th June 1834, 20th *Rep. App. p.* 22.

Windsor Union. Reductions which have taken place in the number of medical attendants in this union, *Rumsey* 14783.

Witney Union (*Oxfordshire.*) Difficulties in forming the union; unsuccessful attempts to induce the guardians to comprehend new parishes in the union, *Gulson* 1367——Average rate of wages; some guardians have complained that they may not give relief out of the rates in aid of wages, *Hall* 2580——Reductions which have taken place in the number of medical attendants in this union, *Rumsey* 14783.

Woburn Union. The guardians do not admit the public to their discussions; but ratepayers, on application to the chairman, would never be refused admittance, *Pearse* 10837–10848——A person requiring relief, must make his application in the first instance to the relieving officer; this regulation has not been any obstruction to the appearance of paupers before the board, *Pearse* 10866–10870——There is not full employment for all the labourers; some have been working on the railway, *Pearse* 11079–11081.

Return of persons who migrated; whether receiving parochial relief; amount of income, &c., 47th *Rep., App. p.* 54——Number of workhouses; in what parish each is situate; the dietaries and classification in each; alterations made in the dietary and classification since the formation of the union, 20th *Rep. App. p.* 19.

See also *Applications for Relief.*

Woburn Union Workhouse. Strangers are admitted on procuring an order from the resident guardian; Messrs. Crabtree and Turner, on applying for admittance, were desired to get an order, *Pearse* 10851–10858——The master may admit strangers without an order, *Pearse* 11073–11078.

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Woburn Union Workhouse——continued.

Dietary for able-bodied men and women from 12th February 1836 to 21st January 1837, and from 21st January to the present time, 20th *Rep. App. p.* 19——Old and new dietaries, 28th *Rep. App. p.* 26.

Women. Resources of able-bodied women in providing for themselves; case in the Rugby Union, *Hall* 2754-2761.

See also *Widows.*

Wood Stealing (*Bedfordshire.*) Punishment inflicted on persons for gathering sticks in plantations, *Turner* 5965-5988. 6032-6037——Inaccuracy of Mr. Turner's description of the offence for which persons have been committed; the offence has been the breaking and stealing of wood under Peel's Act, *Musgrave* 11284-11286——There are not so many offences of this nature as there were four years since, *Musgrave* 11287, 11288——Persons who break trees and damage fences are generally men of bad character, who have come out of prison, and sell the stolen wood for beer, *Musgrave* 11295——The increase of wood-stealing is attributed to the numerous beer-houses, *Musgrave* 14023, 14024——Return, from the Clerk of the Peace of the county of Bedford, of the number of summary convictions within the Ampthill Union for stealing wood, 34th *Rep. App. p.* 23.

Woodbridge Union (*Suffolk.*) Rate of wages therein, *Kay* 4769——State of pauperism in the Colneis and Carlford hundreds before and since the Poor Law Act, *Kay* 4971-4981——Number of children maintained and educated in the workhouse December 1837, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 32——Periods during which children have resided in the workhouse, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 33——Table of the rate of wages, and classified results of inquiry concerning the annual income of husbandmen, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 36.

Reductions in the number of medical attendants which have taken place in this union, *Rumsey* 14783——Woodbridge was placed under a medical officer who resided 12 miles off, *Rumsey* 14763.

Woodstock Union. No chaplain has yet been appointed; the guardians have not resolved that there shall be one; the workhouse is very lately completed, *Hall* 2531——Population of the union; necessity of appointing a chaplain; the Commissioners have not interfered, *Hall* 2534-2537. 2541, 2542.

Worcester County. Summary of unions formed by Robert Weale, Esq., assistant Poor Law Commissioner, 47th *Rep. App. pp.* 42, 43.

Workhouse System:

1. *Generally: Its Effect upon Wages and Employment.*
2. *Ampthill Union.*

1. *Generally: Its Effect upon Wages and Employment.*

When a well-regulated workhouse system is introduced, relief may be offered to all parties applying, while, without it, relief must sometimes be refused, *Power* 3143-3148——Has been introduced to a much greater extent in the south of England by the guardians themselves, than the rules of the Commissioners insisted, *Power* 3384, 3385——Arguments to prove the effect of the workhouse system in raising wages, *Power* 3394-3397——The expense of maintaining large families in the workhouse has had the effect of raising wages; labourers have come for orders into the workhouse in order to obtain higher wages from their employers, *Hall* 2291-2294——It is not the wholesome operation of the law that a farmer should be obliged to employ a man whose labour he does not want, in order to avoid the expense of his maintenance in the workhouse, *Power* 3491, 3492——The largest amount of compulsion is upon the employers, and not upon the labourers, *Kay* 4588-4590——May be safely used without interfering much between the labeurer and employer, *Power* 3796, 3797——Is a strong inducement to the labourer to be an industrious and useful servant, and to the farmer to provide employment and independent maintenance, *Kay* 4523.

Consideration of its effects upon wages, *Kay* 4572-4590——The operation of the workhouse system on wages will be no longer necessary when persons have acquired a knowledge of their true interests, and when certain districts are relieved from the consequences of the previous system, *Kay* 4584——Opinions of the guardians in Norfolk and Suffolk, that the workhouse system affords the greatest security for the continuance of employment at sufficient wages, *Kay* 4662-4664——The necessity for able-bodied men accepting relief in the workhouse is constantly undergoing diminution; there is a desire both on the part of master and servant to make their engagements permanent, *Kay* 4822——The workhouse is offered by intelligent guardians to men with large families, in order to create employment for the families; the single men would then have to find work elsewhere, *Kay* 4721-4723——Security against the refusal of orders for the workhouse by guardians in order to depress wages, *Kay* 4684-4702. 5179-5187——It induces many to look out for work, and is a test to distinguish real from apparent destitution, and is better than any other in agricultural parishes, *Overman* 11505-11519——Has the effect of making farmers find employment in the winter; if any labourers should be without work, residence

Reports, 1837–8—*continued.*

Workhouse System—1. *Generally: no Effect upon Wages and Employment*—continued. in the workhouse will not be a hardship, *Overman* 11521–11531. 11588–11592—— It induces labourers to seek employment at a distance, which is a less evil than remaining in his parish at the public expense, *Gulson* 375–377——To what extent persons would endure privation rather than enter the workhouse, *Hall* 17044–17091.

2. *Ampthill Union.*

Has been a great spur to exertion on the part of the able-bodied, and has not reduced them to greater difficulty or distress; it has compelled many to work who never worked before, *Whitehurst* 11139–11143——It has not had the effect of lowering the rate of wages, *Whitehurst* 11144——Its effects upon wages illustrated by cases in the parish of Cranfield, *Overman* 11590–11592——It has had the effect of raising wages, *Overman* 14720–14727——The workhouse is offered on the ground of destitution, without reference to the character of the party, *Overman* 14680–14692——Principles on which admission to the workhouse is offered or refused, *Overman* 14706–14715. 14731–14741——Many able-bodied men have applied for relief, and, on being offered the workhouse, have obtained work, *Overman* 11483–11486——Many exceedingly poor persons have declared they will not enter the workhouse, notwithstanding their poverty, *Crabtree* 8663.

See also *Out-door Relief. Wages, &c.*

Workhouse Test. The rigid test of the workhouse is not so much required in places where great difficulty in finding employment is known to exist, as where there is no such difficulty, *Gulson* 142–155——In the latter, the want of employment can only be ascertained by the workhouse test, *Gulson* 156–158. 163——Under the old law, it could not be applied, as workhouse accommodation was defective, *Gulson* 164–170——The workhouse is a certain test; the labour test should not be applied until the former has failed, from want of room, *Gulson* 209–211——More efficient than the labour test, but must be relaxed when emergencies arise in the manufacturing districts, *Johnson* 4145–4153——Is the only means by which provident habits can be introduced amongst the working classes, *Gulson* 518–523.

Reasons why it always meets the necessities of an agricultural district, though not at all times applicable to manufacturing districts, *Gulson* 790–794——Is preferable to any other test, but may become insufficient in manufacturing districts at particular times, *Hall* 2121–2125——Could not stand against a heavy commercial pressure, without a subsidiary test, in the manufacturing districts, *Hall* 2273–2275——Has always been found sufficient in rural parts of the country; the elasticity of the test system is a great advantage in the new law, *Hall* 2276–2286.

There is no injustice in the workhouse test; before it was adopted, a man derived no advantage from a good character; the labourers themselves are satisfied of its utility, *Hall* 2627–2645——It is not the interest of the poor to be relieved from a certain degree of distress before they apply for relief, *Power* 3398–3402——The horror entertained of the workhouse, has very much diminished amongst the labourers, *Hall* 2737——Is more efficient as regards some classes than others; the vicious and idle will enter the workhouse, and remain there, and bring up their families, *Power* 3670–3673——The food and lodging, if not coupled with restraints, would be accepted by labourers of inferior character and spirit, but not by the better class, *Power* 3767.

Workhouses:

I. *Generally: Regulations, &c.*

II. *Classification.*

1. Generally.
2. Lancashire and West Riding of York.
3. Norfolk and Suffolk.

III. *Discipline.*

IV. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

I. *Generally: Regulations, &c.*

Regulations and general form of the union workhouses, *Gulson* 441–456——Are under the management of the governor and the visiting committee; the Commissioners' rules are sometimes infringed, but there is no severity to the paupers, *Gulson* 919–926——Are open to parties without an order, and to every body with an order from a guardian; the clergyman may visit them, and there are visitors' books, *Gulson* 923–925——Securities for the proper management of workhouses; visiting committee; guardians; Assistant Commissioners; admission of strangers, chaplain, &c., *Hall* 2512–2523——Persons may always visit the workhouse if they have an order from a guardian, and this restriction even does not exist in some unions, *Kay* 4999.

By the new system, the number of workhouses will be diminished, their management improved, and complete classification introduced, *Power* 2883–2885——Union workhouses

Reports, 1837–8—*continued.*

WORKHOUSES—I. *Generally: Regulations, &c.*—continued.

houses are built larger than is necessary; one workhouse would be sufficient for two or three unions; but the objection which now exists on the part of paupers being removed from their friends, would be increased, *Overman* 11479–11482. 11487, 11488. 11500, 11501——There has been no opposition on the part of parishes to the erection of union workhouses, *Gulson* 1460–1464——Calculations of the cost of maintaining families of different sizes, *Kay* 4673–4676.

II. *Classification.*

1. Generally.

Remarks on the necessity of observing classification, *Rep. p.* 33——Complaints have been made, that married people are altogether separated in the workhouse; necessity of a separation of the sexes; in all well-regulated workhouses it has been enforced, *Power* 3169–3171. 3210–3212——The labourers complain of the separation of man and wife; sometimes also the want of separation between the peaceable and the disorderly, *Hall* 2507–2511——Separation of the sexes is indispensable, for the sake of decency and morals, *Power* 2881, 2882.

Doubts have been expressed as to the legality of separating the sexes; witness entertains no doubt, *Power* 4026, 4027——Interviews between husbands and wives would be permitted at all reasonable times; they have never been placed in separate workhouses, *Kay* 4920–4926——The parish poor-houses were, almost without exception, scenes of the utmost iniquity and disorder; children, able-bodied men, dissolute women, and the aged and infirm, were in the same apartments, *Kay* 4403——The respectable females prefer the present system by which the sexes are kept in separate apartments; entries in the book of the chaplain of Hoxne Union, *Kay* 4933–4940——The separation of a man from his wife is opposed to the principles of Christianity; witness cannot perform the marriage ceremony, and give his sanction to this separation, *Bull* 6211, 6212——If the absence of separation in the old workhouses has been found productive of indecency and immorality, it shows that the gathering together of persons in a workhouse is an evil to be avoided, *Bull* 6348-6351——How far the separation of the sexes is necessary, *Swain* 16930–16939——The difficulty of separating the well-disposed adult paupers from those of abandoned character, is not great, *Hickson* 13198, 13199.

The children are kept apart from the adults, and are properly schooled and trained, and cannot become corrupted by intercourse, as they were in the old workhouses, *Power* 3151——Classification will supply a more moral training and better education to children; the want of it was demoralizing, *Power* 3597, 3598——Necessity of separating children from adult paupers; parents may see their children during any part of the day, and they constantly meet at dinner and supper, *Kay* 4438, 4439——The classification of union workhouses would be an improvement upon the system in the Leeds workhouse, *Johnson* 4063.

2. Lancashire and West Riding of York.

There was formerly no classification or means of employing the inmates, *Power* 2848——In very few workhouses in the manufacturing districts a regular system of classification existed, *Power* 2876——Places enumerated in which there was a separation of the sexes, *Power* 2879, 2880——Reasons for anticipating that paupers will not remain so long in union workhouses as in the old parish workhouses, *Power* 3266–3278.

3. Norfolk and Suffolk.

Extent to which separation exists between parents and their children; regulations in force; instructions given to masters of workhouses, *Kay* 4941–4945.

III. *Discipline.*

Recommendation that the aged poor should be allowed to leave the workhouse to see their friends, *Rep. p.* 33——The corn-mill is a substitute for the tread-mill, and equally oppressive; it can be used when there is no corn to grind, *Turner* 5994–6003——The confinement of the idle and dissolute is proper, but the aged ought to be permitted to go out without asking leave of the board of guardians, *Turner* 8543.

IV. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

Answers to a circular, concerning the number of various classes of paupers maintained in the workhouses in Norfolk and Suffolk, in the week ending 2 January 1838, 14th *Rep. App. p.* 34——Returns from 100 workhouses, in various counties, and 10 metropolitan, of the average number of males and females constantly in the house; average number of sick and healthy persons in the house; total number of males and females received or discharged; number of deaths, &c.; with facts deduced therefrom, 46th *Rep. App. p.* 147.

See also *Ampthill Workhouse. Biggleswade Workhouse. Camberwell Workhouse. Carlton Workhouse. Children. Dietary. Education. Furniture. Out-door Relief. Ventilation of Workhouses, &c., and particular Workhouses.*

Reports, 1837-8—*continued.*

Wycombe Union. Medical men have been allowed to take separate parishes without any reference to districts, *Rumsey* 14793, 14794——Medical arrangements, *Rumsey* 14897–14902.

Y.

Yates, or *Gates, Thomas.* See *Gates,* or *Yates, Thomas.*

Yelloley, Dr. Witness has read a paper by Dr. Yelloley, and, generally, is of the same opinion, *Hall* 15984.

Yorkshire, West Riding. Amount of poor-rate per head on the population; there is no other county, except Lancashire, in which it is so low, *Power* 2951, 2952.

See also *Bastardy,* IV., 5. *Manufacturing Districts, &c.*